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The Kalaureia Excavation Project

A preliminary report of the work carried out in Area L between 2015 and 2018

Abstract

The report presents a summary and preliminary discussion on the work carried out by the Swedish Institute at ancient Kalaureia between 2015 and 2018 in Area L. The excavations were focused on this area with the hopes of gaining a better understanding of the settlement which was situated south of the Sanctuary of Poseidon in antiquity. The excavations show that a large building was constructed probably around the middle of the 4th century BC in the western part of Area L. The full outline and functional use of the building has not yet been fully established but the building seems to have been in use in several subsequent phases. The excavated remains further suggest that dining activities were carried out in the southern part of the building. A stone laid feature (Feature 3) excavated immediately to the east, together with charcoal deposits, also provide indications of cooking in the 3rd century BC at least. The feature was, however, covered by the 2nd century BC when a new wall was constructed which seems to connect the building with a broader structural complex to the south. During this period parts of Area L seem to have been used for olive oil production, identifiable through archaeobotanical remains, multiple pithoi, and a press installation excavated in the central part of Area L. In the Late Hellenistic to Early Roman phase (either in the 1st century BC or 1st century AD) much of the building complex was again covered by a new construction fill, raising the level of the building.*

Keywords: Kalaureia, Poros, Excavation, Hellenistic Greece, Hellenistic Archaeology

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Introduction

The current report presents a summary and preliminary discussion on the results of the work carried out by the Swedish Institute at ancient Kalaureia, on the island of Poros (southern Greece), between 2015 and 2018. The new excavation trenches are situated in Area L, located in the presumed area of the ancient settlement *c*. 200 m to the south of the Sanctuary of Poseidon (*Fig. 1*). The principal aim of the renewed investigations is to gain a better understanding of the chronology and nature of the settlement. The current report will therefore focus on the specific parts of Area L that provide a representative chronology and where specific functional spaces could be identified through initial analysis of the archaeological remains.

Kalaureia was widely known in antiquity for its Sanctuary of Poseidon. The sanctuary was excavated by Swedish archaeologists first in 1894 and later between 1997 and 2012.[1] Written sources suggest that a settlement existed at Kalaureia which seems to have held *polis* status in the late 4th century BC.[2] We do not know if a settlement existed prior to this period, when Kalaureia was part of the territory of Troizen. Although previous excavations have provided much information on the development and use of the sanctuary in the Archaic, Classical,

* Since 2010 the investigations in ancient Kalaureia have been under the general direction of Arto Penttinen, with Anton Bonnier in charge of the fieldwork and publishing of the findings in Area L. Therese Emanuelsson-Paulson contributed to this report with the analysis of the architectural remains, and Dimitra Mylona with a preliminary analysis of the zooarchaeological remains. The excavations between 2015 and 2018 were conducted in collaboration with the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Gothenburg. Additional funding was provided by Stiftelsen Enboms donationsfond (the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities) and the Herbert och Karin Jacobssons Stiftelse in Gothenburg as well as Magnus Bergwalls Stiftelse in Stockholm. We wish to thank the Ephorate of Antiquities of West Attica, Piraeus and Islands, its director Stella Chrysoulaki, and its representative on Poros, Maria Giannopoulou, as well as the staff of the Poros Archaeological Museum, headed by Nektarios Sarantopoulos, and our foreman of 20 years, Giorgios Stamatellos of Galatas, for facilitating our work in every possible way.

[1] Wide & Kjellberg 1895; for an account of the early excavations at the site, see also Berg 2016. For reports on the later excavations in the sanctuary, see Wells *et al.* 2003; 2005; 2006–2007; Penttinen *et al.* 2009; Penttinen & Mylona 2019.

[2] Figueira 2004, 622–623 (inv. no. 360).

Fig. 1. Location of Area L in relation to the Sanctuary of Poseidon and Building I. Illustration: Anton Bonnier.

and Hellenistic periods, much less is known archaeologically of the settlement. Between 2007 and 2012 a multifunctional structure (defined as Building I) was excavated immediately outside the sanctuary. The structure seems to have been used for both domestic and commercial purposes between the 2nd century BC and 2nd century AD.[3] Later agricultural activity at Kalaureia had, however, disturbed the stratigraphy within Building I because of the thin soil cover in this area. The lack of preserved stratigraphic sequences caused problems in terms of accurately assessing development in the building and its immediate surroundings. Before 2015 Building I was nevertheless the only part of the settlement that had been excavated. Other forms of archaeological investigation have, however, highlighted the presence of ancient structural remains in the presumed location of the settlement. Across the modern asphalt road which was built in the 1970s, south of Building I and the sanctuary, subsurface remains were mapped through a geophysical survey that was carried out in the area in 2006. Multiple surface remains have also been mapped using a total station in the area which now constitutes Area L. The current excavations have thus been focused on revealing more information on these remains that presumably formed part of the ancient settlement at Kalaureia.

Methods and outline of the work in Area L between 2015 and 2018

Area L was excavated using the block system which had previously been employed by the Kalaureia Excavation Project between 2007 and 2012. The method is based on the systematic excavation of units designated as "blocks". A block can be a small artificial unit, or a larger unit comprising a single stratum. The only occasion when a change in block numbers must be implemented is when there is a change in soil composition. Different strata were thus identified through the soil and find composition of the different excavated blocks. All blocks, walls, and features were recorded using Leica TCR407power and TCR805power total stations, mainly through the reflectorless laser setting. The recording methods allow us to model the three-dimensional relationship between blocks and strata within a GIS environment based on the recorded soil qualities of the excavated blocks.[4] The excavated blocks have further been documented through photogrammetry, which allows us to create 3D models of contexts in relation to the excavated architectural features.[5]

Between 2015 and 2018 trenches in Area L were successively expanded over four consecutive field seasons (*Fig. 2*). In 2015 the excavations were carried out as part of a field school involving students from the University of Gothenburg. Four trenches, defined as L001, L002, L003, and L004 (each measuring 3 x 3 m), were laid out where the geophysical survey in 2006 had shown the existence of several subsurface remains. As a result of the constraints imposed by the field school format, excavations could only be carried out to a limited depth. In 2016 the excavations were carried out for three weeks, again as part of a field school in co-operation with the University of Gothenburg. Two more trenches were opened, L005 and L006 (measuring 3 x 3m), which covered the unexcavated areas between L001, L002, and L003. Once the various trenches were brought down to the same level, except in trench L004, excavations were continued at

[3] The results of these excavations are currently being prepared for publication.

[4] ArcGIS versions 10.5 and 10.7 (including also ArcScene 10.5 and 10.7 for 3D modelling purposes) have been used to visualize the stratigraphic sequences.

[5] All of the 3D modelling was carried out using AgiSoft photoscan software.

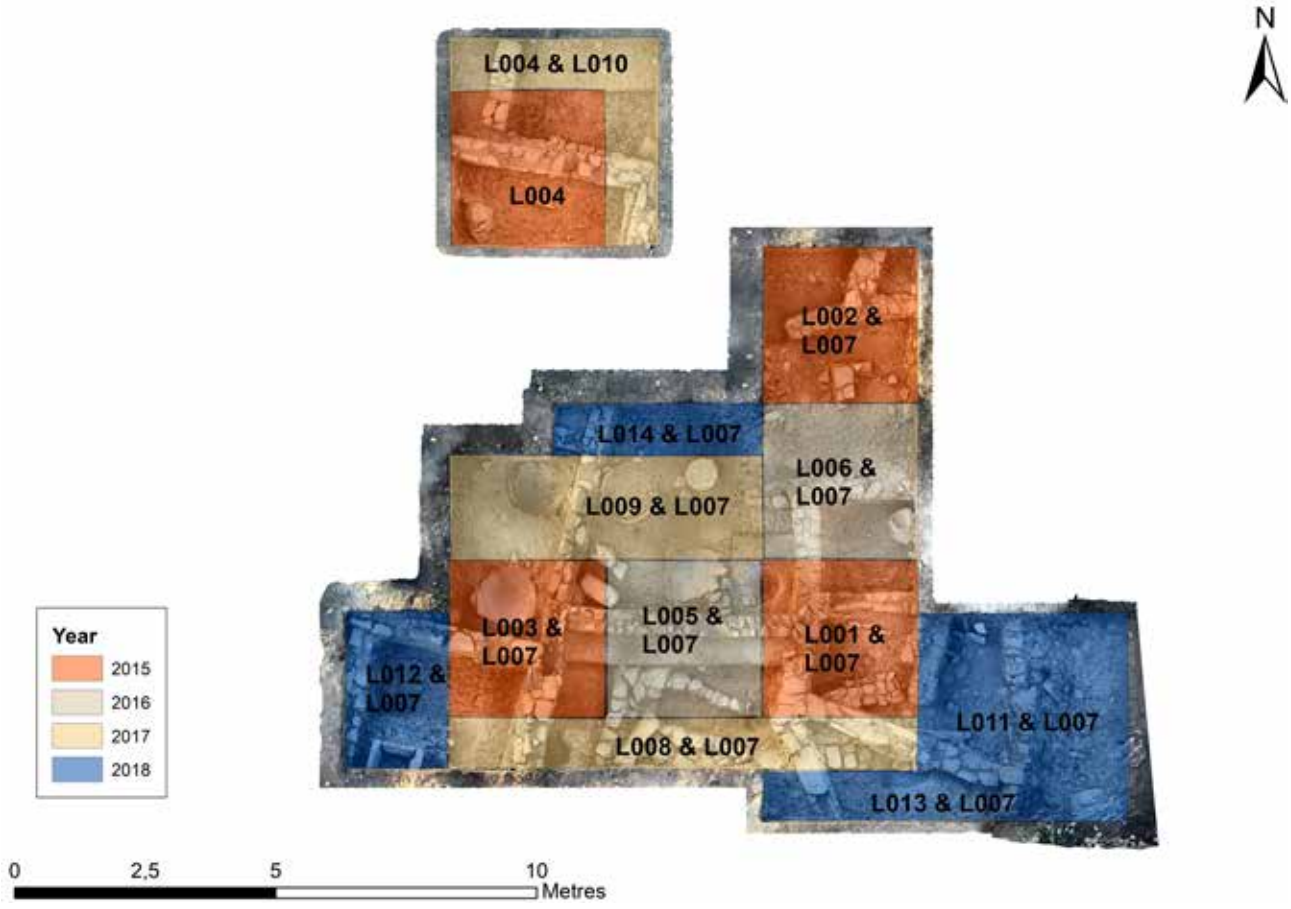

Fig. 2. Area L and outline of trenches per season. Illustration: The Kalaureia Excavation Project.

a greater depth in various parts of the now large L-shaped trench which was defined as L007.

The results of the 2016 campaign were promising. Multiple phases of activity were identified, and the excavations showed that the soil cover was much deeper in Area L compared to the sanctuary. The potential for recording undisturbed stratigraphic sequences was consequently much greater in Area L compared to the previously excavated areas at the site. We therefore decided to conduct more extensive excavations coupled with limited field schools in both 2017 and 2018. In 2017 the extent of the large L-shaped trench was expanded both to the north (L009) and south (L008) as well as in the still-unconnected northern trench (L010). We further increased the depth of excavation in the existing trenches (excavated as part of L007). In 2018 the trench was expanded further to the south-west (L012) and in the south-east (L011 and L013). The L-shaped trench was further expanded at its north-western limit (L014). During the 2018 field season the L007 contexts were also excavated to a deeper level.

The Classical Building

During the excavation of the topsoil in Area L the upper stretches of multiple walls were unearthed, highlighting the presence of an extensive structural environment in Area L. The excavations have so far not been able to expose the full outline of this structural environment but sections of a large building, oriented north–northeast/south–south-west, have been identified (*Fig. 3*). The building will in this report be defined as the Classical Building because of its probable construction date in the fourth century BC. Later repairs and additions are also visible in the upper stretches of the walls belonging to the structure. In later phases the building seems to have been integrated with a larger structural complex in the area and the ground levels were subsequently raised to accommodate new phases of activity. The current report will focus on four distinct parts of Area L where the excavations have so far produced enough material to allow for a preliminary discussion on the development and use of the building and its immediate surroundings in these different periods (*Fig. 4*).

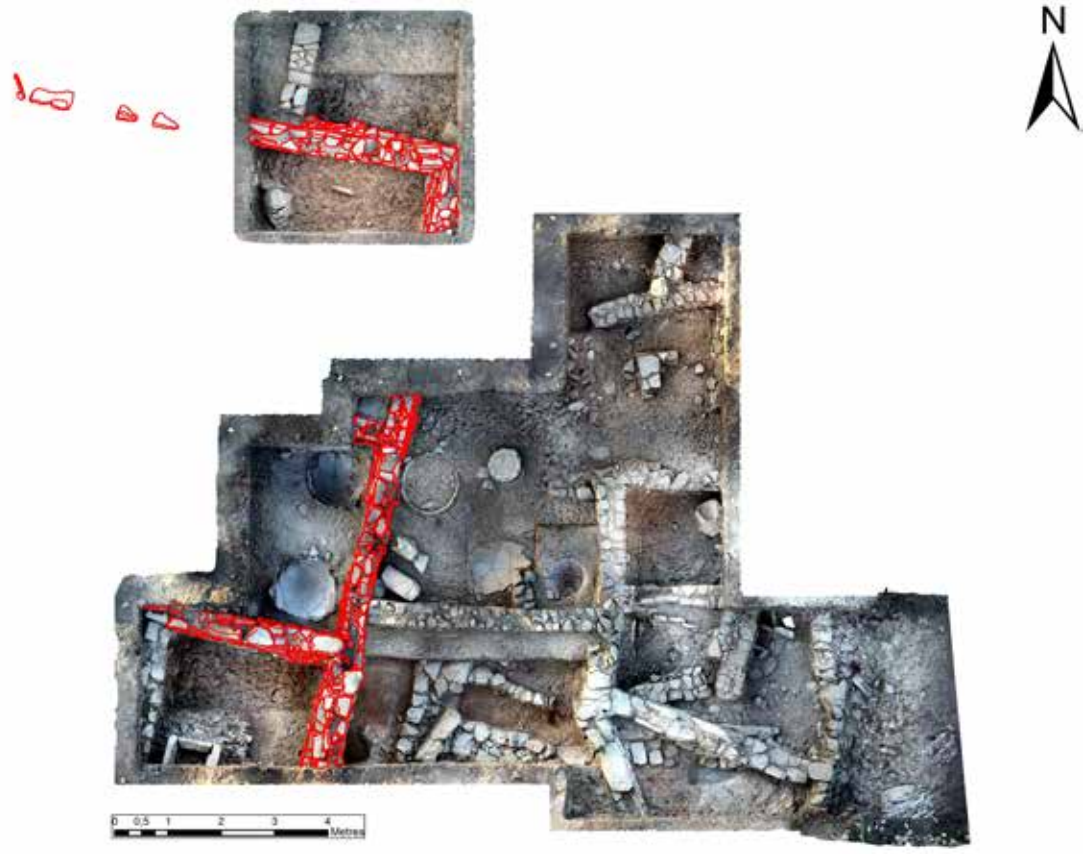

Fig. 3. The outline of the Classical Building in the western part of Area L. Illustration: Anton Bonnier and Therese Emanuelsson-Paulson.

The south-western part of Area L

The south-western part of Area L is composed of an enclosed space formed by the trench edge and the intersection of Wall 206, Wall 207, and Wall 220 (*Fig. 5*). Both Wall 206 and Wall 207 formed part of the Classical Building in its initial construction phase. Soil depth was good in the south-western part of Area L and the excavations produced a well-preserved stratigraphic sequence. We can therefore use the south-western part to explore the chronological sequences of the Classical Building and the relationship between stratigraphy and the architectural remains and the functional use of the space in the different phases.

THE EARLY ROMAN FILL

Initial excavation of the topsoil in south-western part of Area L revealed the top stretches of Walls 206, 207, and 220, as well as mixed deposits of primarily Hellenistic pottery, with some Roman and also later pottery. Both Late Roman combed wares and early modern glazed pottery indicate later use of the area, presumably for agricultural purposes. Below the mixed topsoil strata, a more homogeneous and richer layer was encountered. The layer, defined as Stratum 1, was characterized by numerous tile fragments and occasional small stones. The stratum is composed of four different blocks excavated between 2015 and 2018 (L003: 4; L007: 3; L008: 4; L012: 3). The finds recovered within Stratum 1 generally consisted of small fragmentary pieces of pottery, densely packed tile fragments, and a large quantity of marine molluscs. Animal bones were, however, almost non-existent in this layer. The latest material within the stratum consisted of sigillata wares, primarily Eastern Sigillata A (ESA) types dating between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD (*Fig. 6*).[6] The sigillata material was further mixed with Roman thin-walled wares and glass vessel fragments as well as a large amount of Hellenistic material spanning the 3rd to 1st century BC.

[6] Hayes 2008, 13–30; Abadie-Reynal 2007, 75, 83; Bes 2015, 13–16. The fabrics and glaze of the recovered material in Area L may be indicative of local Greek production rather than any imports from the Eastern Mediterranean, but further study of the material is needed.

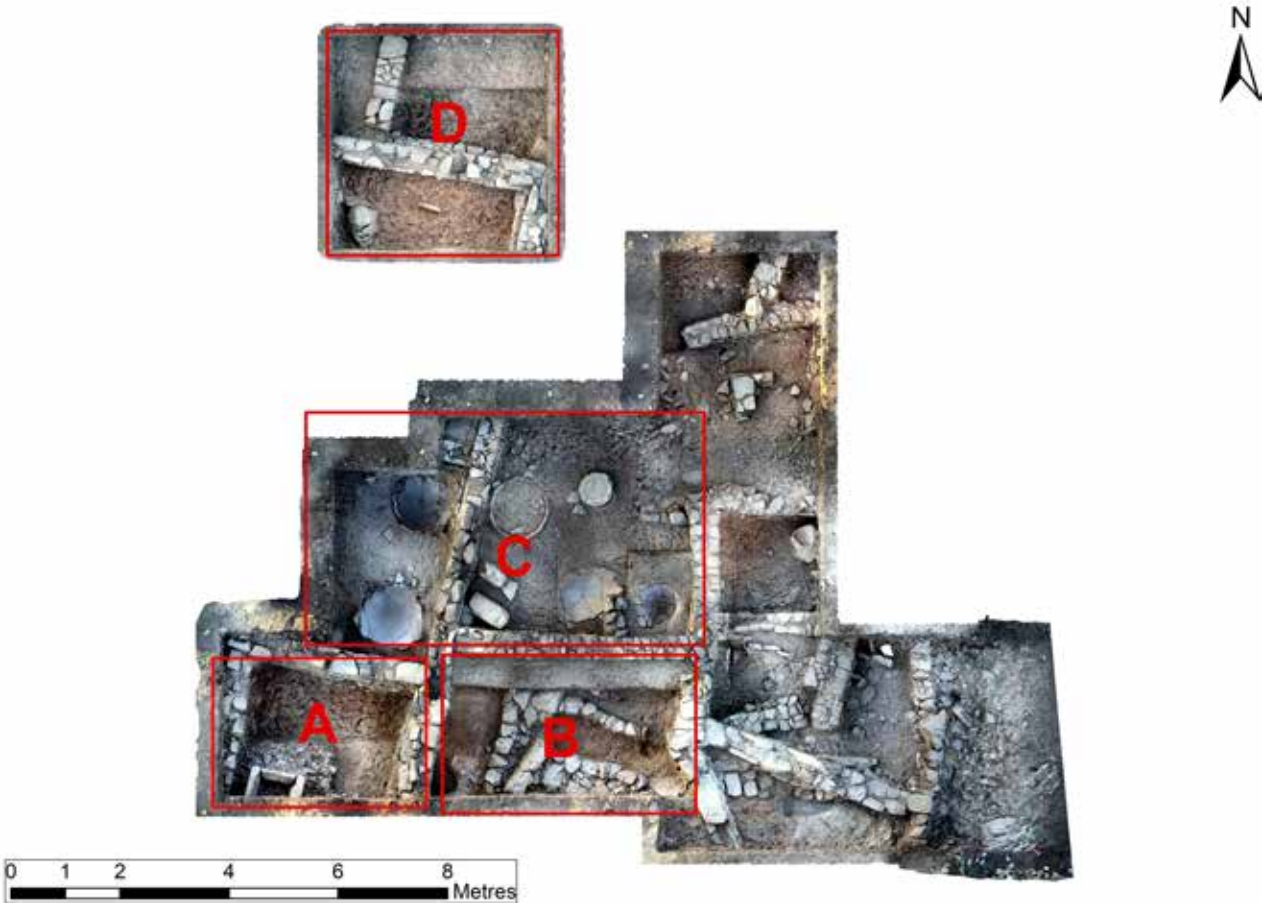

Fig. 4. Parts of Area L below the plough zone that are covered by the current report. ***A****: the south-western part of Area L;* ***B****: the southern part of Area L;* ***C****: the central part of Area L;* ***D****: the northern trench. Illustration: Anton Bonnier.*

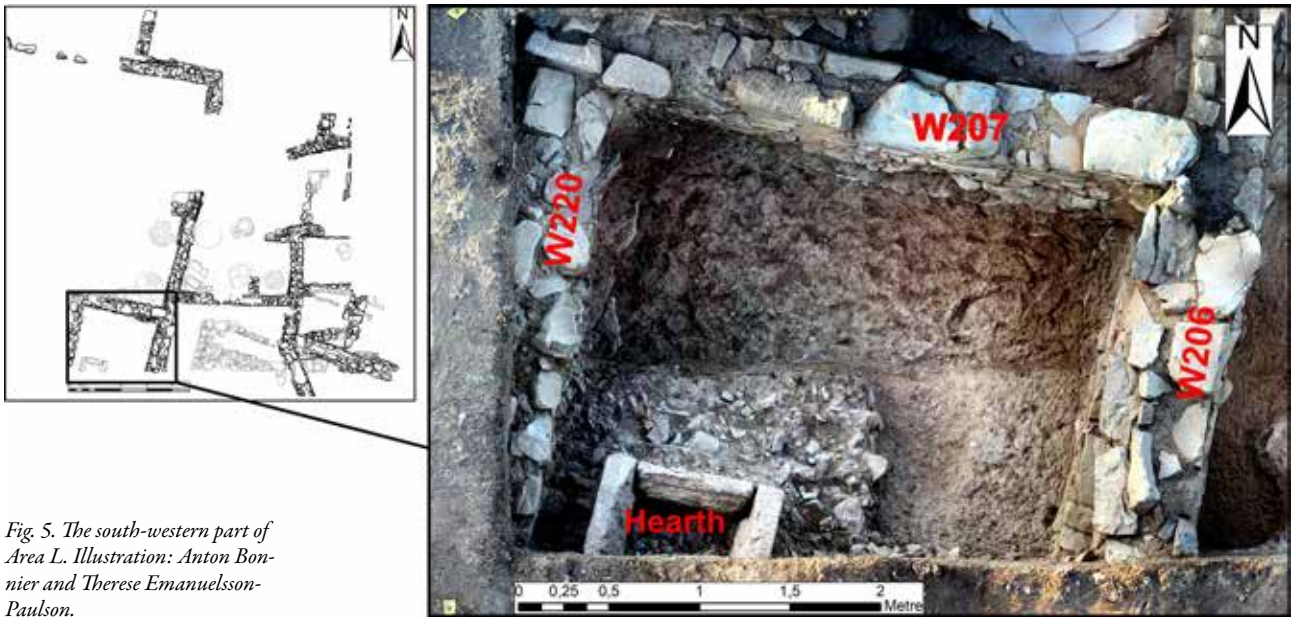

Fig. 5. The south-western part of Area L. Illustration: Anton Bonnier and Therese Emanuelsson-Paulson.

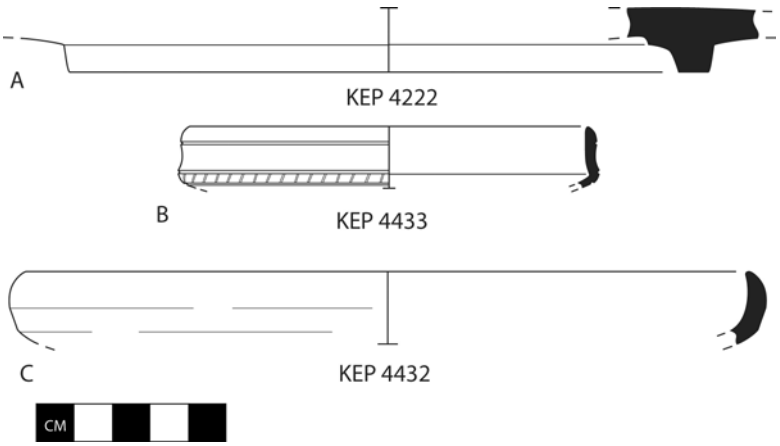

Fig. 6. Sigillata sherds recovered in the south-western part of Area L. Drawings by Christina Kolb.

The mixed chronology of the ceramic material together with the numerous tile fragments and remains of broken floor plaster suggest that the layer was formed as a construction fill to support a new building phase coinciding with the construction of Wall 220. The wall itself is composed of between one and two courses of irregular-shaped stones with a fill of smaller stones and tiles. The full surviving height of the wall was exposed only on the east side during the excavations (*Fig. 7*). The shallow position of the wall suggests that it served as an inner wall in the later phase of the building. Repairs and additions belonging to this phase can also be seen on Walls 206 and 207 (*Fig. 8*). The stones used for the upper courses differ from the tightly fitted rectangular blocks of the lower courses. For both these walls tiles were used in the filling contained by the upper stones, but were absent in the filing of the lower stretches. For Wall 206 and 207, some of the stones belonging to the latest phase seem however to have been pushed out of place, probably because of disturbance through ploughing in later periods. At the bottom of Stratum 1 (in block L012: 3) the upper parts of a hearth were revealed (*Figs. 5, 7*). The hearth was covered by the Early Roman fill and is thus primarily related to the phases recorded in the deeper levels.

THE LATE HELLENISTIC CONTEXTS

Immediately below the Early Roman fill, several blocks were excavated which provide evidence on the use of the space in the Late Hellenistic period. These blocks were excavated in 2016, 2017, and 2018 (consisting of L007: 9; L007: 12; L008: 5; L008: 8; L012: 5; L012: 6) and together form Stratum 2. The layer was composed of slightly darker soil compared to the Roman fill. Within Stratum 2 there was also a greater component of charcoal as well as sherds that seem to have been scorched by fire. The amount of broken tile diminished considerably in this layer while the pottery was primarily made up of horizontally positioned small sherds, suggestive of a floor layer. It is possible that Stratum 2 represents multiple floors constructed within a fairly brief time span, though such successive levels cannot be identified stratigraphically.

The stratum contained no early Roman sigillata sherds. Several mould-made bowls were present and push the chronology of the stratum into the first half of 2nd century BC at the earliest (*Fig. 9A–D*).[7] A large number of plates or saucers with projecting rims can further be dated between the 3rd and 2nd century BC (*Fig. 9E–H*).[8] Several cooking vessels were part of the recovered ceramic assemblage. These cooking wares were composed of fragmentary body sherds manufactured in hard gritty fabrics typical of other Hellenistic cooking vessels found at Kalaureia. Diagnostic fragments included a small part of a lid with the knob preserved, belonging to a chythra or lopas,[9] as well as a rim fragment of a lidded chythra (*Fig. 9I–J*).[10]

More of the hearth structure was exposed during the excavation of Stratum 2 and the inside of the hearth was excavated as a separate context (block L012: 4). The soil contained within the hearth was composed of red and occasionally white ashy fine-grained soil. Pieces of charcoal were also collected within the hearth, as well as small- to medium-sized stones and tile fragments that were presumably deposited as a fill. No clearly diagnostic pottery was, however, found inside the hearth.

[7] See Rotroff 1982.
[8] Cf. Wells *et al.* 2006–2007, 87–89, fig. 56; 2005, 169, fig. 50; Rotroff 1997, 149–150 and fig. 52.
[9] The knob is a hollow flaring knob with a bevelled top. In the Athenian Agora similar types occur on domed lids dating to the 2nd century BC (Lid form 4), though the one recovered in Stratum 3 is not identical to those depicted in Rotroff 2006, 197.
[10] Wells *et al.* 2006–2007, 90 (no. 178), which comes from a Late Hellenistic to Early Roman deposit.

Fig. 7. Profile of Wall 220 and upper part of the hearth, looking west. Photograph: Anton Bonnier.

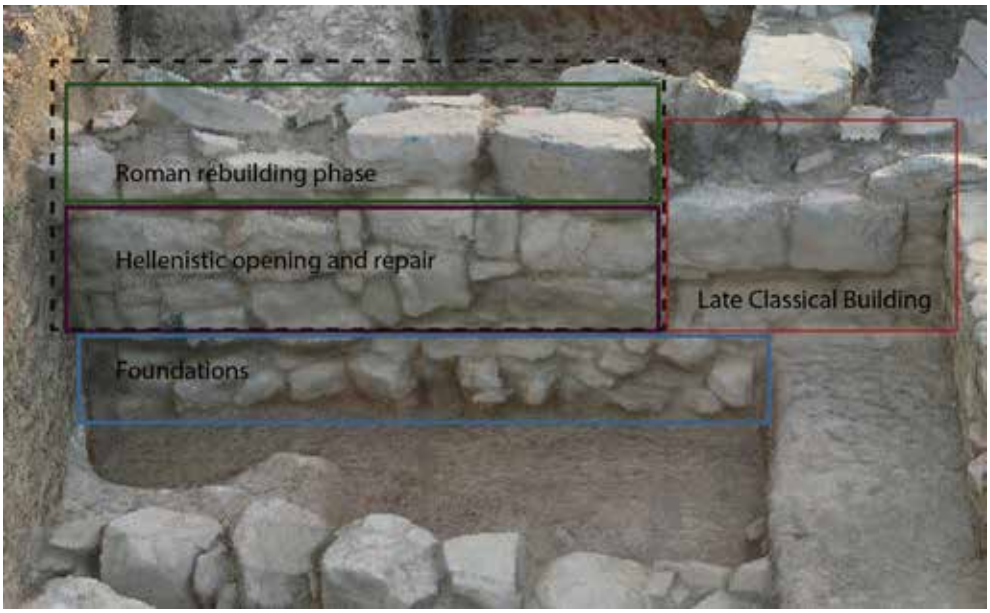

Fig. 8. Phases visible in Wall 206 as seen on the eastern side of wall, looking west. The dashed line indicates the position of the opening/doorway which presumably existed in the 3rd century BC. Photogrammetry model of Wall 206. Illustration: Anton Bonnier and Therese Emanuelsson-Paulson.

LATE CLASSICAL AND EARLY HELLENISTIC CONTEXTS

Below Stratum 2, two additional blocks forming a single stratum were excavated in 2017 and 2018 (L007: 17 and L012: 7). The stratum, defined as Stratum 3, seems to form a floor layer predating the Late Hellenistic contexts. The soil in this layer was a lighter yellowish-brown colour compared to the darker soils noted in the overlying Late Hellenistic stratum. The composition of finds was nevertheless similar to that in Stratum 2. A large number of cooking vessels and numerous fine wares formed part of the assemblage from Stratum 3. The fine wares included several black glazed plates and bowls (*Fig. 10A–C*), as well as a number of skyphoi (*Fig. 10D–E*). Many of the vessel types seem to belong in the 4th century BC but some shapes also provide 3rd century BC dates.[11] The cooking vessels were generally composed of small body sherds but at least one well-preserved rim profile of a lopas (*Fig. 10G*) was recovered. Larger household vessels and transport amphorae were also part of the assemblage. A complete toe with a bevelled profile of possible south Aegean origin can be dated to either the 4th or early 3rd century BC (*Fig. 10F*).[12]

Stratum 3 seems to be linked to a refurbishment phase of the Classical Building visible through modifications of Wall 206. Stretches visible on the east side of the wall suggest that parts of it may have been pulled down to create an opening at some point after the initial building phase (*Fig. 8*). The creation of the opening probably corresponds to the phase represented by Stratum 3. Before the Late Hellenistic period

[11] Cf. Wells *et al.* 2005, 188, fig. 67.

[12] Cf. Göransson 2007, 146–166. The profile of 10F is consistent with toe types dating to the Late Classical and Early Hellenistic period.

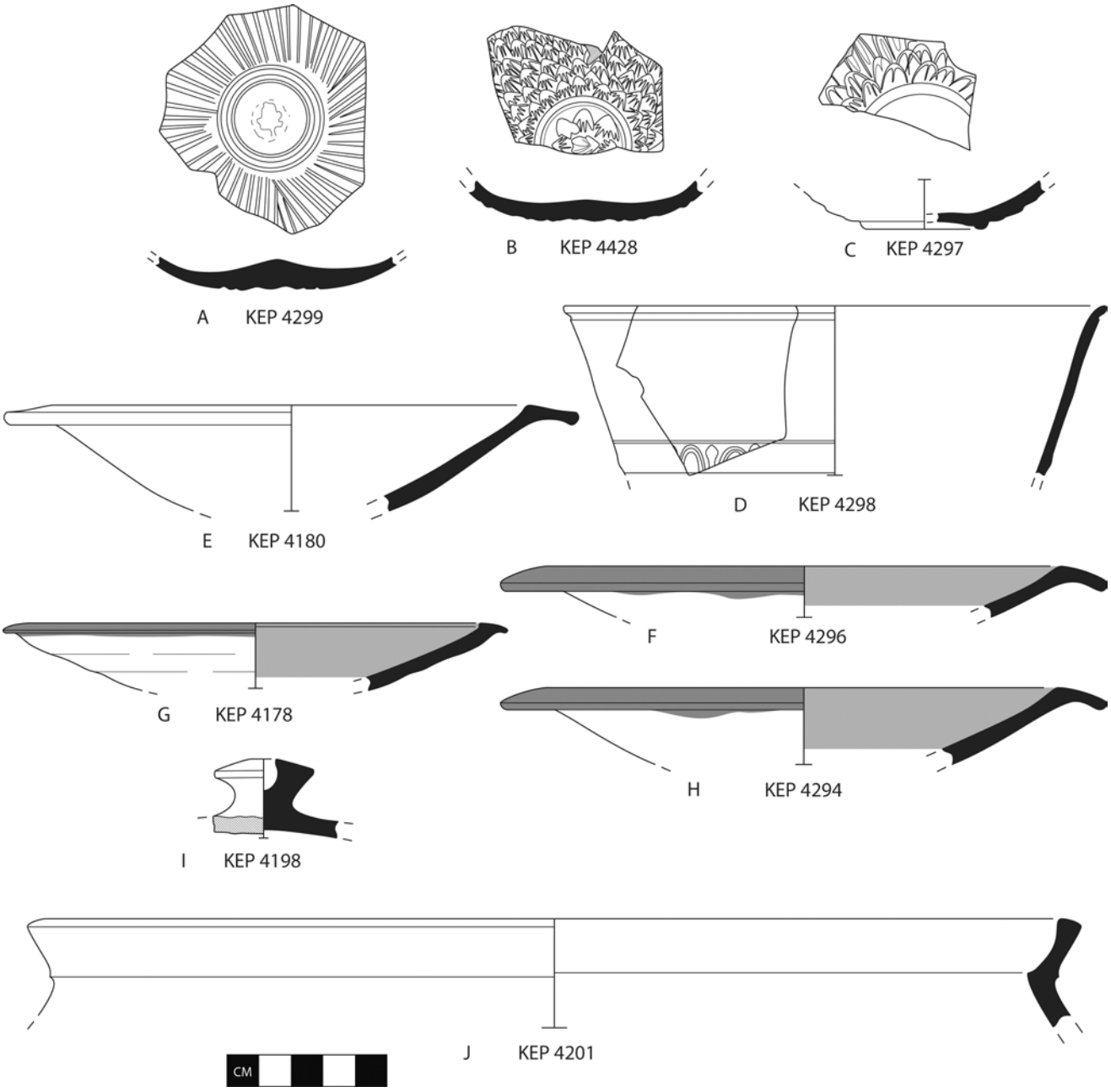

Fig. 9. Diagnostic pottery from Stratum 2. Drawings by Christina Kolb.

and the accumulation of Stratum 2 this opening seems, however, to have been closed using a different technique compared to the earlier construction phase.

At the bottom of Stratum 3, a construction fill formed by a dense stone packing layer was encountered. The stone packing was composed of loose soil mixed with multiple small- to medium-sized stones and tile fragments. This new stratum was defined as Stratum 4 and consists of three blocks excavated between 2017 and 2018 (blocks L007: 25; L012: 8, and L012: 9). Numerous finds were also embedded within the stone packing, including a large amount of well-preserved pottery and a considerable amount of animal bones.[13] The recovered fine wares included multiple skyphoi and bolsals dating to the 4th century BC (*Fig. 11*).[14] A few larger shapes,

[13] The bones are being studied by Dimitra Mylona.
[14] Cf. Wells *et al.* 2005, 146–147; Sparkes *et al.* 1970, 84–85, fig. 4.

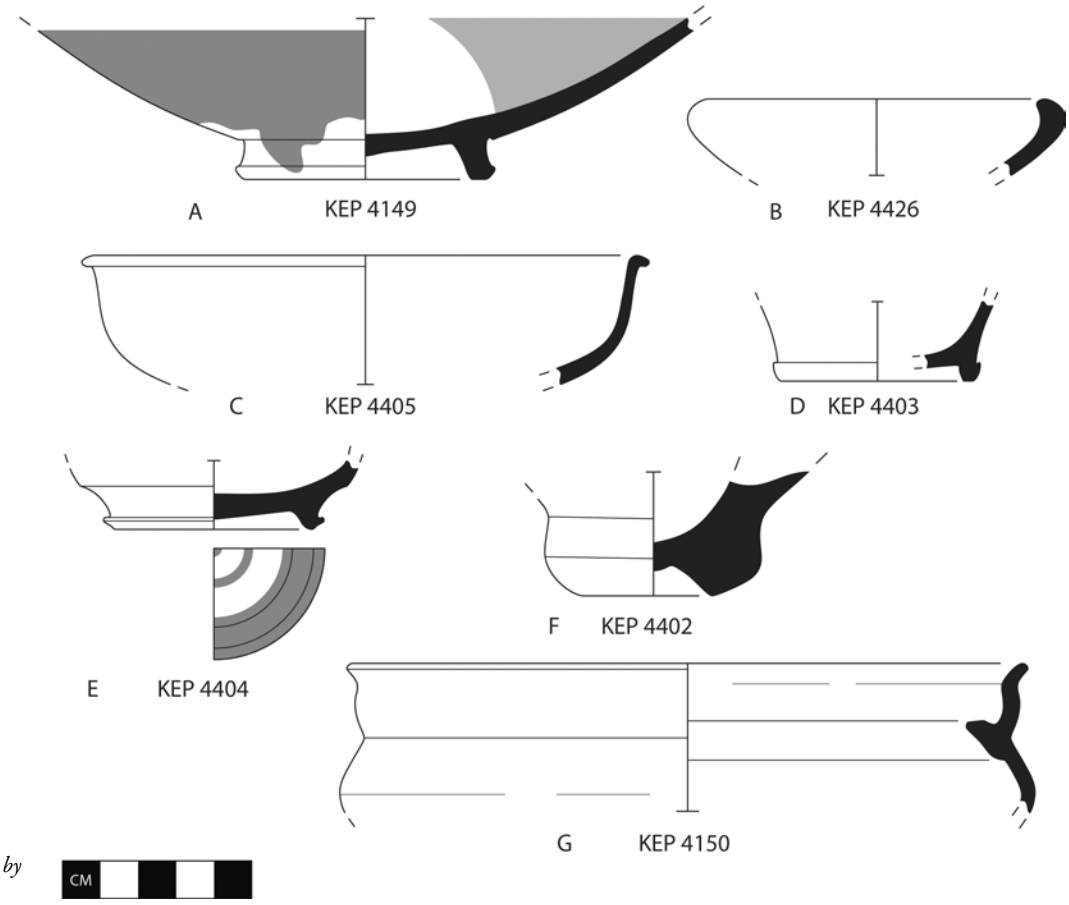

Fig. 10. Diagnostic pottery from Stratum 3. Drawings by Christina Kolb.

possibly kantharoi, and several echinus bowls and salt cellars further place the stone packing in the 4th century BC.[15] Several fragments of cooking vessels were also recovered, including a high number of rims belonging to lopades and at least one rim fragment of a chythra (*Fig. 12*).[16] A considerable amount of transport amphorae sherds were excavated within Stratum 4. These include Greco-Italic types with triangular rims as well as toe fragments of Aegean vessels that seem to date in the Late Classical to Early Hellenistic period (*Fig. 13*).[17]

Despite the large number of diagnostic elements, it is difficult to determine if the finds derive from domestic activities in Area L. Both the recovered pottery and animal bones could indicate food preparation and dining activities, but it is uncertain whether the construction fill was composed of refuse from the immediate area. Similar 4th-century BC construction fills with identical material composition have been recorded elsewhere at ancient Kalaureia.[18] It is therefore not certain if the deposited material in Area L was composed of domestic refuse gathered from the immediate area or waste produced elsewhere at the site.

Stratum 4 may probably be linked to the initial construction phase of the Classical Building. Due to the later rebuilding, however, only small stretches belonging to this early phase can be seen in Wall 206, primarily in the intersection of Wall 206 and Wall 207 (*Fig. 8*). Here the wall is constructed of well-fitted blocks in neat layers with an undressed interior face and a fill of earth and small stones. Much of the early phase of the Classical Building is instead preserved in stretches visible on Wall 207. The lower courses of the wall are constructed of the well-fitted rectangular blocks that seem to have been utilized in this phase (*Fig. 14*). Wall 207 probably functioned as an inner wall of the Classical Building, dividing the room formed by the south-western part of Area L from the space immediately to the north. Although the top courses of both Walls 206 and 207 are partly composed of later additions, they are probably positioned at the same height as the

[15] Particularly in terms of the small bowls and salt cellars, see Rotroff 1997, 161, 165–166, fig. 64; Sparkes *et al.* 1970, 132–138, figs. 8–9.
[16] Cf. assemblage recovered in Area H, see Penttinen *et al.* 2009, fig. 1.
[17] The assemblage is similar to the material excavated in Building D in the Sanctuary of Poseidon, see Wells *et al.* 2005, 205–207.
[18] Wells *et al.* 2005.

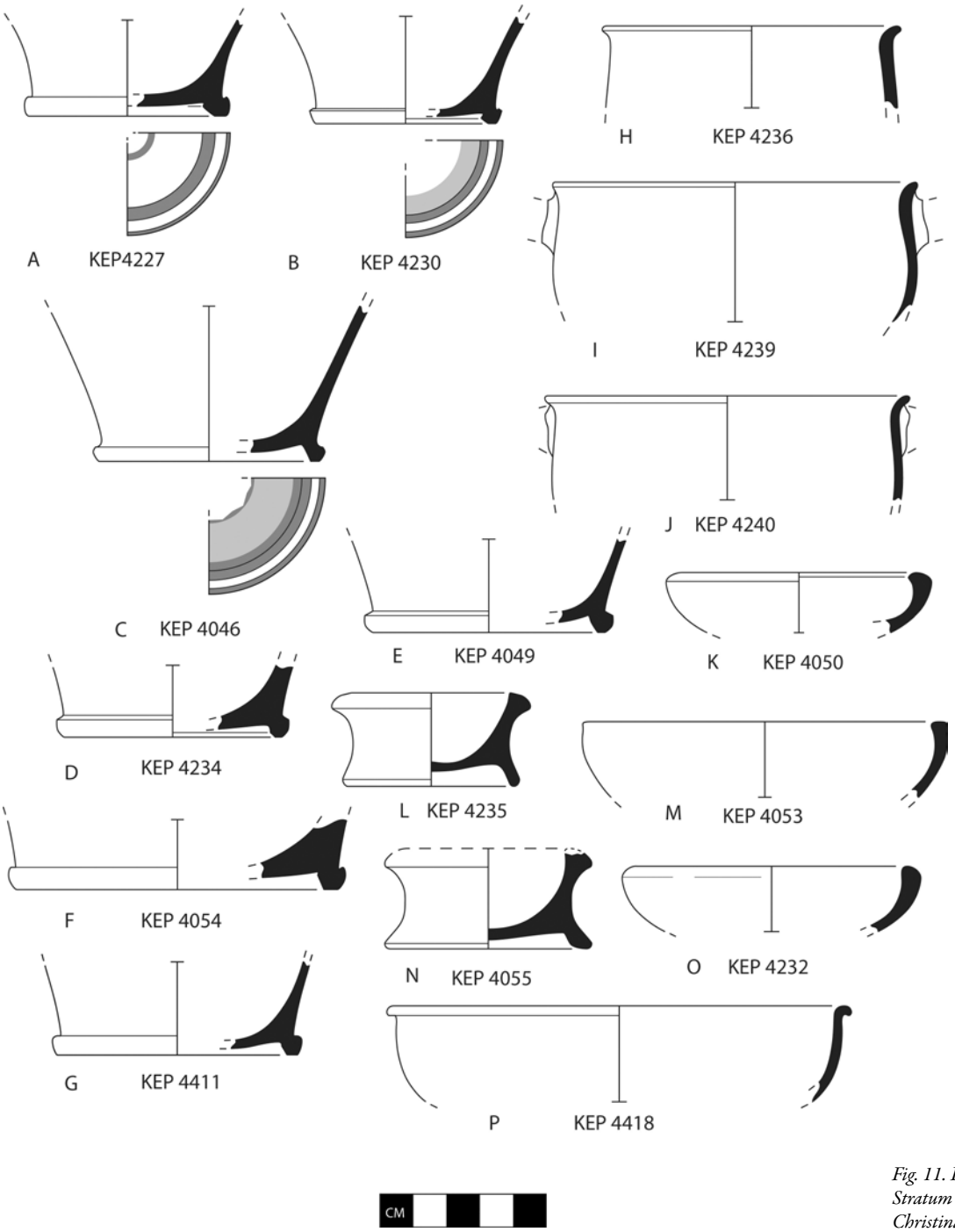

Fig. 11. Fine wares from Stratum 4. Drawings by Christina Kolb.

original walls used in the initial construction phase. This type of construction suggests that the walls served as a socle for a mudbrick structure, as seen in Stoas A and B and Building E within the sanctuary proper.

The excavations further showed that the hearth can be dated to the 4th century BC since it sits on the stone packing level (*Fig. 15*). Similar hearth structures have been found at nearby Troizen where they also date to the 4th century BC.[19] The use of the hearth seems to be linked with the possible floor layer present in Stratum 3 and possibly also in connection with Stratum 2. The construction of the hearth never-

[19] Welter 1941, 32, 34–35 and fig. 15c.

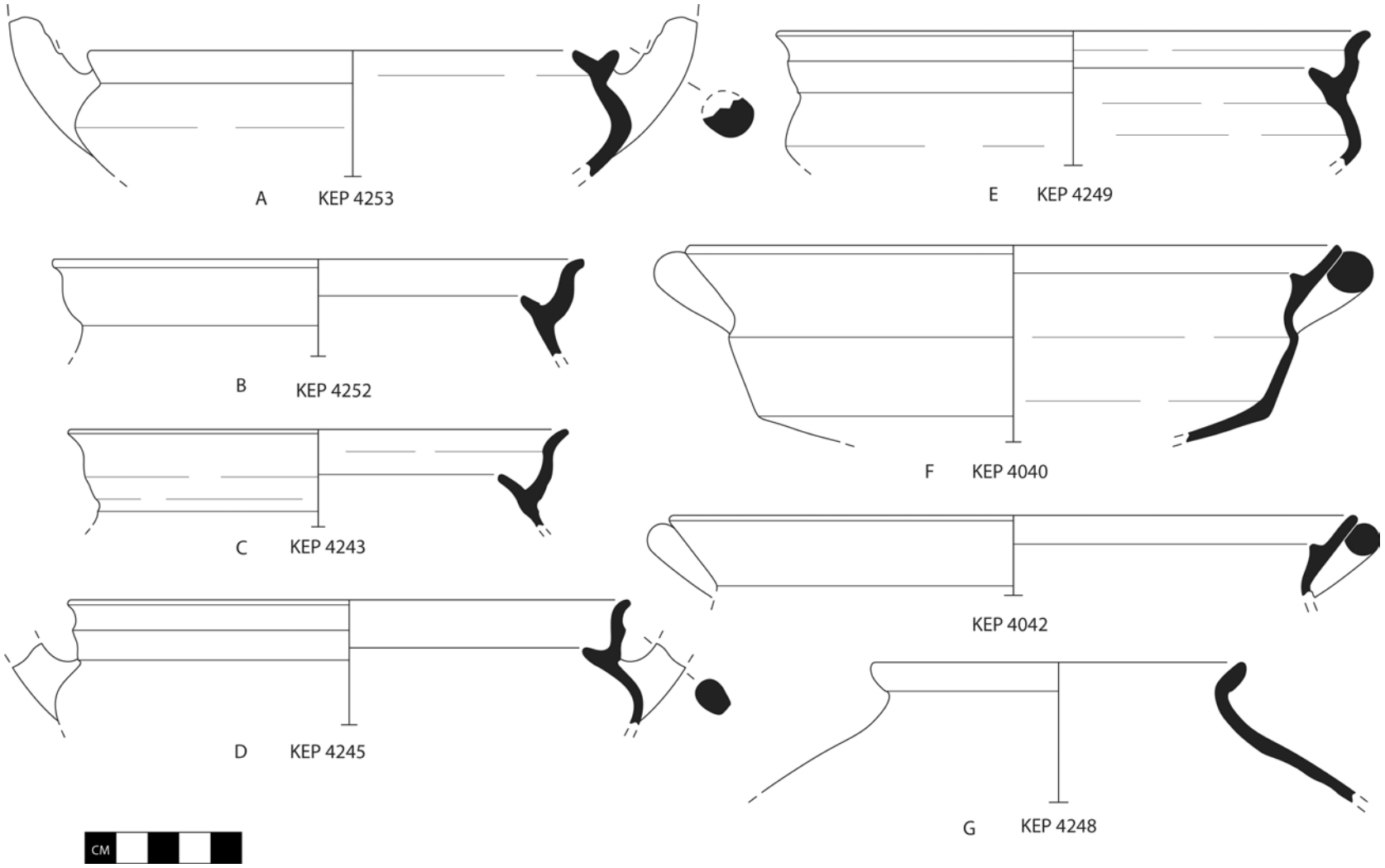

Fig. 12. Cooking wares from Stratum 4. Drawings by Christina Kolb.

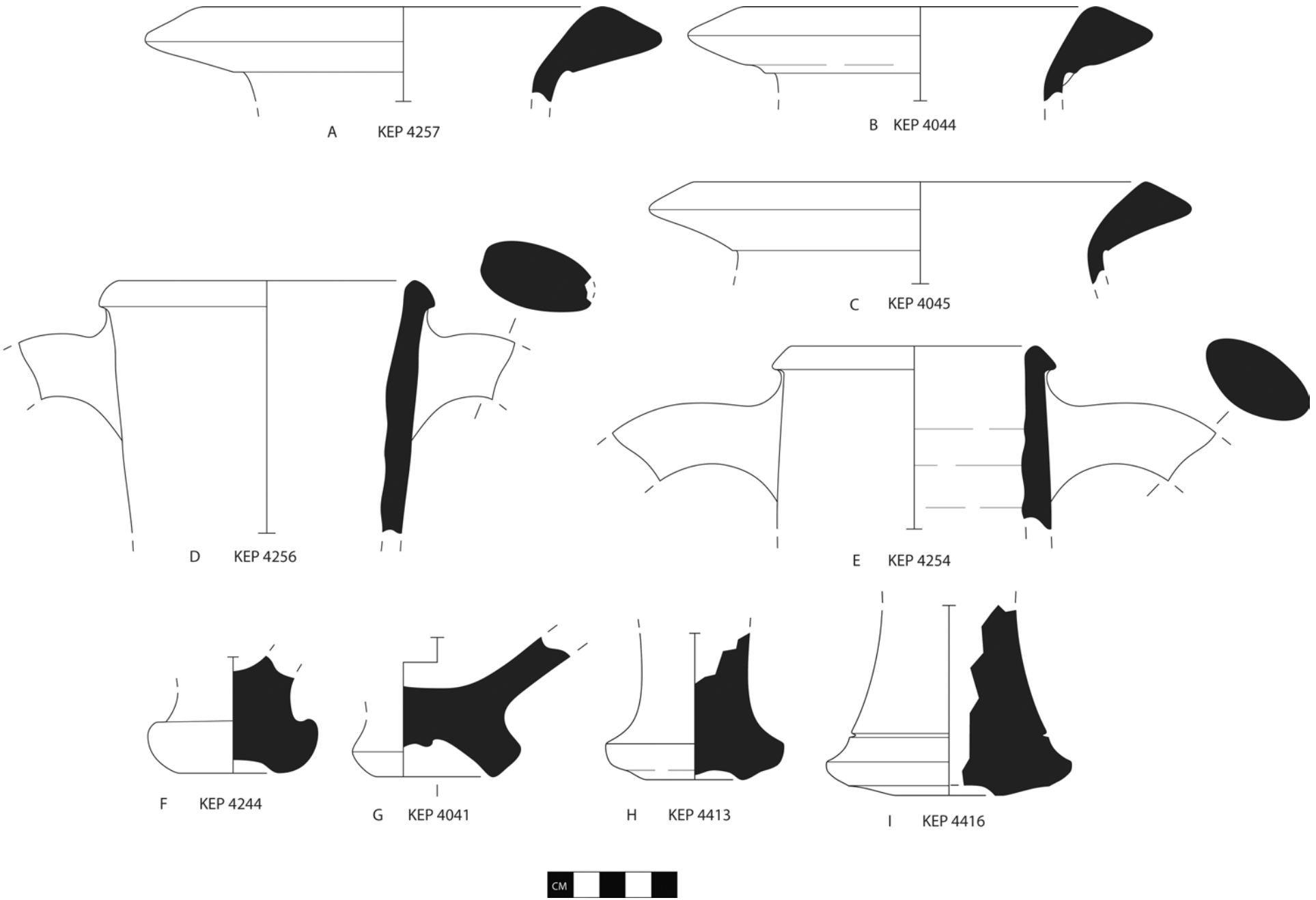

Fig. 13. Amphorae from Stratum 4. Drawings by Christina Kolb.

Fig. 14. Wall 207, looking east–north-east. Photograph: Anton Bonnier.

Fig. 15. The position of the hearth on the stone packing layer, looking south-west. Photograph: Anton Bonnier.

theless seems to have been determined by the ground level formed by the construction of the stone packing construction fill in the initial construction phase.

BELOW THE STONE PACKING LEVEL

Below the stone packing a further layer (defined as Stratum 5) was excavated. The stratum is composed of two blocks (L007: 48 and L007: 57) which may be linked with initial activity in the area and possibly the initial construction phase of the Classical Building. The soil was grainy and dry in texture and more reddish in colour compared to the overlying levels.

The date of the latest material in Stratum 5 corresponds with the material embedded within the stone packing layer. While the amount of pottery was much smaller compared to Stratum 4 there was enough diagnostic material in Stratum 5 to provide a date for the layer. The recovered pottery consisted of a mixture of shapes belonging to different periods, but all predating the 3rd century BC. Two joining rim fragments of a Laconian-type krater were found in the stratum (*Fig. 16A*). This type of vessel was manufactured in various production centres during the 6th century BC.[20] A small number of body sherds further provide dates in significantly earlier periods including two body sherds of pottery probably manufactured in the Early Helladic period as well as small fragments of Late Geometric fine wares (*Fig. 17*). A base fragment of a krater of probable 4th century BC date was however also recovered in the same layer (*Fig. 16B*). Smaller table vessels within the assemblage can be dated to the 4th century BC (*Fig. 16C–D*). A rim fragment of a probable Corinthian B amphora may further be assigned to this period (*Fig. 16E*).[21]

The stratum is positioned in connection with the foundations of Wall 206 (*Fig. 8*). These foundations are constructed of irregular-shaped stones, while the upper courses of the wall foundations are constructed of rectangular stones or flat stones. The foundations of Wall 207 are similarly constructed. Given the chronology of the finds within both Strata 4 and 5 and the position of the wall remains in connection with these strata, it seems safe to assume that the Classical Building was initially constructed in the 4th century BC.

The southern part of Area L

Further east in Area L, east of Wall 206, a number of contexts were excavated that provide information on development and activities linked to the Classical Building. This space is defined by Wall 206 to the west, Wall 204 to the north, and Wall 203 and Wall 210 to the east (*Figs. 4, 18*). This part of Area L may have been situated on the eastern exterior of the Classical Building in the earlier phases. In the 2nd century BC, the southern part of Area L seems, however, to have been incorporated into a broader building complex linking the Classical Building with areas to the east.

THE EARLY ROMAN FILL

Initial excavation below the disturbed topsoil levels in the southern part of Area L revealed a fill dating to the Early

[20] Wells *et al.* 2006–2007, 77, no. 105, fig. 43.

[21] Cf. Göransson 2007, 88–113.

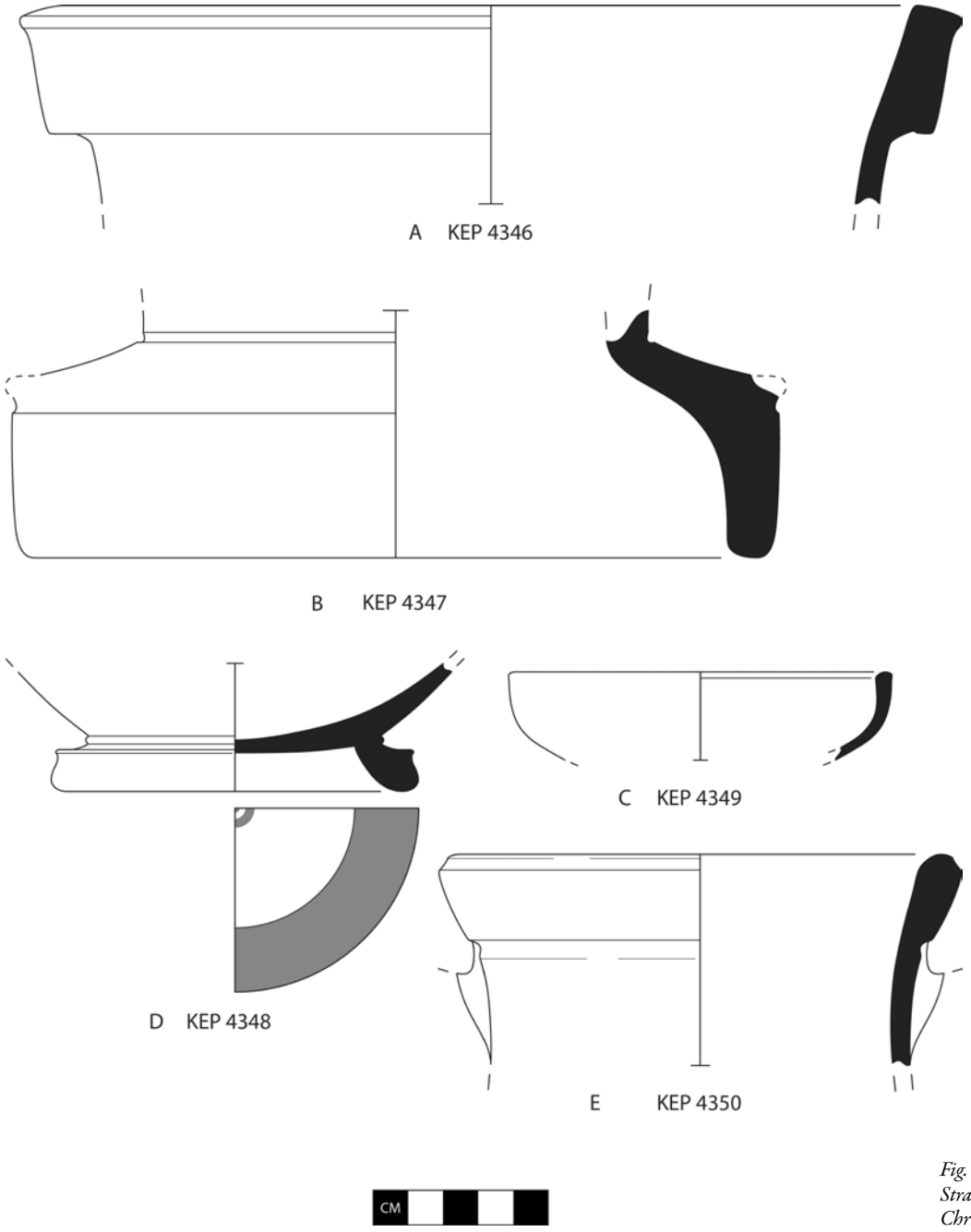

Fig. 16. Diagnostic pottery from Stratum 5. Drawings by Christina Kolb.

Roman period, identical to that excavated in the southwestern part. In order to spatially differentiate it from Stratum 1 we have defined it as Stratum 6. The blocks forming the stratum were excavated in 2016 and 2017 (L005: 3; L007: 4; L007: 13; L007: 20). The stratum was composed of yellowish-brown soil of hard to medium compaction and contained a dense accumulation of broken tiles, occasional small stones, and a large number of fragmentary pot sherds. In Stratum 6 a large quantity of marine molluscs was recovered, while very few animal bones were found, a situation similar to the assemblage in Stratum 1. Broken bits of floor plaster were also encountered throughout the layer. We further excavated a small number of flat stones positioned at the bottom of block L008: 6 that may have formed part of a constructed floor level. If so, this could suggest that the lower contexts (blocks L007: 13; L008: 9; L007: 20) were part of a separate stratum that would have supported the floor of a new building phase. Since there was no change in soil stra-

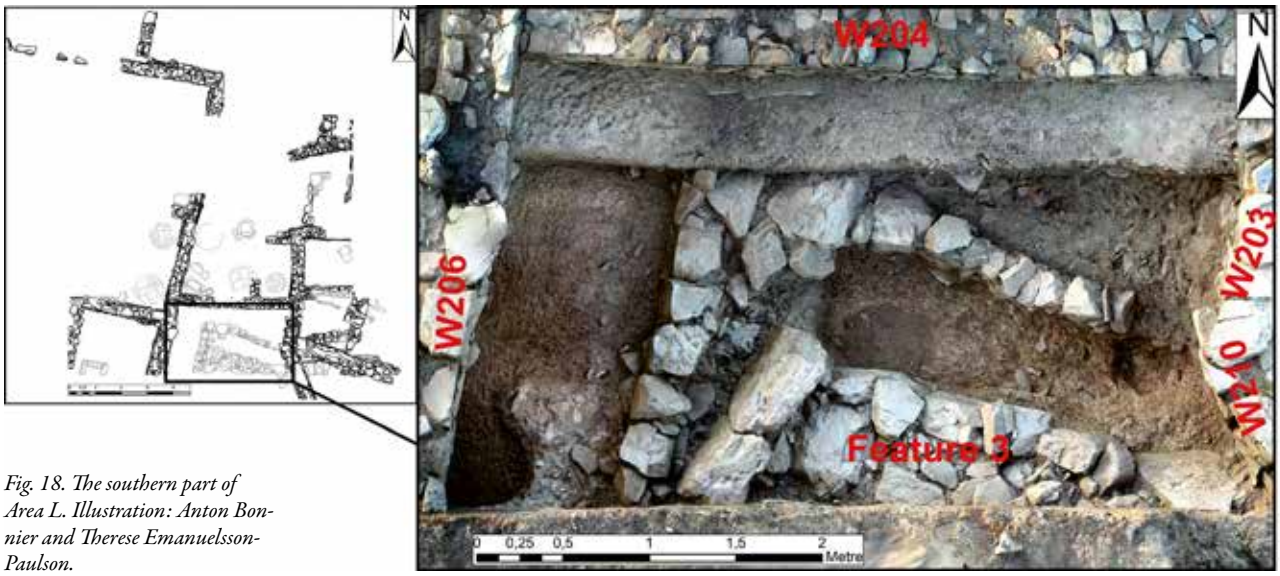

Fig. 18. The southern part of Area L. Illustration: Anton Bonnier and Therese Emanuelsson-Paulson.

tigraphy or any change in the chronology of the recovered finds, we have nevertheless treated all these blocks as part of a single stratum in this report.

The latest diagnostic finds within Stratum 6 was composed of sigillata sherds, primarily ESA shapes suggesting a date in the 1st century BC or 1st century AD. Sigillata wares were present in all of the blocks that form the stratum but constitute only a small part of the finds. In general, the assemblage is highly mixed and contained a significant amount of Hellenistic pottery including mould-made bowls, plates, and other smaller vessels that can be dated to the 3rd and 2nd century BC.

In 2016 a surprising find was also made within Stratum 6 (in block L007: 13). A group of three bronze objects was excavated close to Wall 206, comprising a stemmed dish, a stand, and a statuette depicting Herakles (*Fig. 19*). These finds are currently being studied by Julia Habetzeder but preliminary analysis suggests that the statuette is reminiscent of types dating to the Roman period (based on Classical models), which have been found elsewhere in the Mediterranean.[22] The bronzes seem to have been deliberately deposited within the fill during the later phase of the building complex since they were carefully placed together by Wall 206 and do not seem to form part of the disturbed refuse that otherwise characterizes the finds in the fill (*Fig. 20*).

Stratum 6 covered much of Wall 204 except for the upper courses that became visible during the excavation of the topsoil level. Stratum 6 must therefore have accumulated after Wall 204 was constructed. Wall 204 runs east–west linking the Classical Building with wall stretches further east in Area L (*Fig. 18*). The wall is constructed of rectangular and

Fig. 17. Late Geometric (upper) and prehistoric (lower) sherds from Stratum 5. Photograph: Anton Bonnier.

square stones neatly fitted on both the northern and southern face of the wall. On the inside the stones are undressed and the wall contains a filling of earth, small stones, and broken tiles (*Fig. 21*). Some of the stones used to construct the wall were probably reused from the original phase of the Classical Building, as is suggested by the cutting of the blocks. Wall 204 lacks any visible foundations. The same type of construction techniques can be observed in Building I that can be dated to the 2nd century BC.[23] The top course of Wall 204 is further

[22] Pers. comm. Julia Habetzeder.

[23] As noted above, the report on Building I is currently being prepared for publication.

Fig. 19. Bronzes found in Stratum 6. Photograph by Craig Mauzy.

Fig. 20. Position of the bronzes during the excavation of L007: 13, looking west. Photograph: Anton Bonnier.

composed of a layer of tiles, which probably supported a mud-brick superstructure.[24]

THE LATE HELLENISTIC CONTEXT

Below the Early Roman fill, a single block was excavated in 2017 (L007: 26) that forms a single stratum (defined as Stratum 7) characterized by yellowish brown soil of medium compaction. The amount and density of tile fragments diminishes considerably in Stratum 7 compared to Stratum 6. The position of the layer below the base of Wall 204 suggests that it was accumulated as a construction fill supporting the wall (*Fig. 21*). The ceramic finds found within the stratum thus provide a *terminus post quem* for the construction of Wall 204. The latest recognizable material is made up of Hellenistic tableware dating to the 2nd century BC. Several small fragments of mould-made bowls were included in the assemblage, including a vessel with a floral motif (*Fig. 22A*).[25] There were also a number of open table shapes of types commonly manufactured in the 3rd and 2nd century BC, for example, a rilled rim plate (*Fig. 22B*) which can probably be dated to the 3rd century BC on the basis of Athenian parallels.[26] A well-preserved profile of a chythra and the rim and upper body of an unguentarium also help to date the assemblage firmly within the Hellenistic period (*Fig. 22F, E*).

FEATURE 3 AND THE 3RD-CENTURY BC CONTEXTS IN THE SOUTHERN AREA

At the bottom of Stratum 7 the upper contours of a large stone-built feature appeared that was first interpreted as the remains of an older building. Continued excavation of the feature in 2018 instead revealed a dense stone-packed construction (assigned as Feature 3). The feature was probably used for purposes involving the repeated lighting of fires,

[24] This type of structure is similar to levellers on the interior wall socles under the mudbricks at the Xenon in Nemea, see Birge *et al*. 1992, fig. 124.

[25] In an Athenian context floral bowls are not common after *c*. 145 BC and so the fragment found in Stratum 7 should probably be dated in the first half of the 2nd century BC (Rotroff 1982, 18).

[26] See Rotroff 1997, 151–152.

Fig. 21. Wall 204, looking north. Soil beneath the wall corresponds to the level of Stratum 7. Photograph: Anton Bonnier.

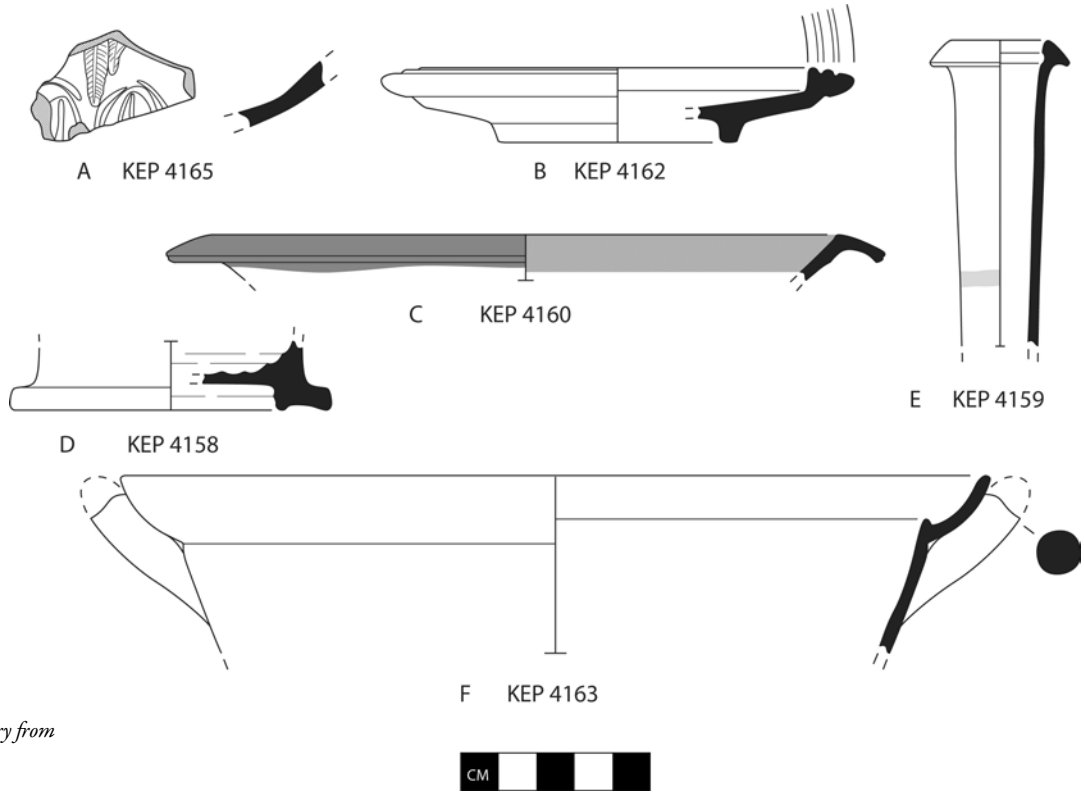

Fig. 22. Diagnostic pottery from Stratum 7. Drawings by Christina Kolb.

since extensive amounts of ash and charcoal were found deposited around it. Significant parts of this feature extend into the southern soil baulk and most of it remains covered. The visible remains consist of an outer stone line (composed of larger stones measuring between 20 x 20 and 30 x 30 cm) extending north parallel to the inner part of the feature. After about two metres the stone line is aligned towards the east-south-east (arranged with smaller stones measuring roughly between 10 x 10 and 20 x 20 cm), enclosing the inner part of the feature (*Fig. 23*). This part of the outer stone line runs deeper into the soil. The inner part of Feature 3 is composed of stones packed to provide a flat top surface on the structure. On the western part, two stones are vertically arranged framing the flat surface that makes up the inner construction (*Fig. 23*).

The fills surrounding Feature 3

The soil covering the upper part of Feature 3 was defined as Stratum 8. The stratum is formed by a single block excavated in 2018 (L007: 36). The stratum was composed of hard light yellowish-brown soil with significant amounts of charcoal in it. There were a few fragments of burnt clay, and a large lump of white, rather coarse plaster within the fill but which could not be immediately associated with Feature 3 itself. Numerous potsherds and animal bones and a few tile fragments were

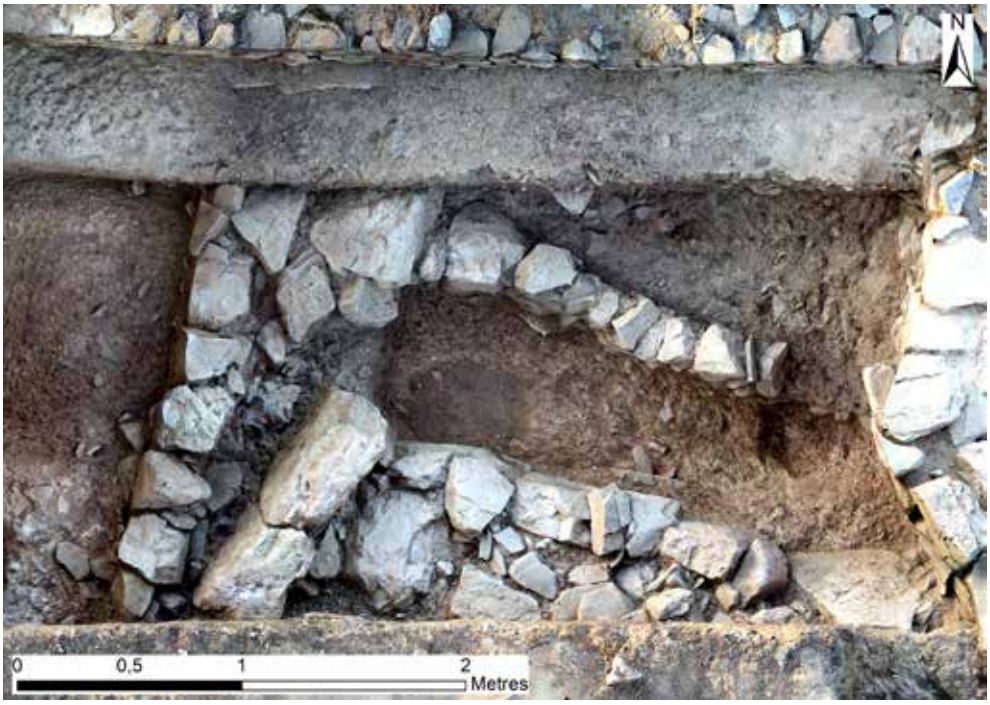

Fig. 23. Feature 3 in the southern part of Area L. Illustration: Anton Bonnier.

recovered within the fill. The diagnostic sherds suggest a 3rd-century BC date for the deposit and include vessels such as plates and other open table shapes. The stratum can further be linked with repairs visible on Wall 206 and the closing of the opening that was created after the initial construction phase of the Classical Building (*Fig. 8*). The dates provided by the material in Stratum 8 thus suggest that Feature 3 was covered and the opening in Wall 206 was closed in the early 2nd century BC at the very latest.

The ash deposits

Below the fill covering Feature 3, two strata containing a significant amount of charcoal and ash (Strata 9 and 10) were encountered. Stratum 9 consists of three blocks excavated in 2018 (L007: 42; L007: 45; L007: 52) and is composed of brown soil of medium compaction intermixed with charcoal and ash. The stratum was very rich in finds but tile fragments were largely absent. In terms of chronology the pottery seems to be largely homogenous (*Fig. 24*). The fine wares consisted primarily of Hellenistic black glaze vessels dating to the 3rd century BC. One example is a Hellenistic baggy kantharos with a strap handle and a comic mask thumb rest, which can be dated to the second half of the 3rd century BC based on parallels from the Athenian Agora (*Fig. 24A*).[27] A second kantharos sherd, possibly a tall baggy kantharos with traces of west slope decoration can be dated to the same period (*Fig. 24B*).[28] Furthermore, a rim of a Greco-Italic transport amphora, probably belonging to the MGS VI type also seems to date to the second half of the 3rd century BC, based on parallels from southern Italy and Sicily.[29] Similarly, both plate and bowl fragments excavated within the stratum can be broadly placed in this period.

Apart from significant amounts of pottery, Stratum 9 produced a considerable amount of animal remains, namely marine molluscs, mammal and fish bones, the preservation of which was excellent. Although the full analysis of these remains is pending, we are able to offer some preliminary observations.[30] The molluscan assemblage is not very variable and the main taxa represented in it was composed of ceriths (*Cerithim vulgatum*), limpets (*Patella* sp.), and purple shells (mostly *Bolinus brandaris*).[31]

The mammal bones were dominated by highly fragmented cattle bones, displaying multiple cut marks. It appears that the fragmentation of the bones occurred prior to deposition and is probably linked to the cracking of bones and cutting of the meat for consumption. Sheep, goats, and pigs also formed part of the assemblage, and various anatomical elements of these

[27] Cf. Rotroff 1997, 104, see esp. no. 241, fig. 16 for a close parallel.

[28] Rotroff 1997, 104–105.

[29] Göransson 2007, 129–130: a good parallel is provided by no. 234. For the chronology of these types, see Vandermersch 1994, 83.

[30] The assemblage is currently being studied by Dimitra Mylona.

[31] The taxonomic profile of the assemblage is distinctly different from the assemblages recovered within the sanctuary, see Syrides 2019.

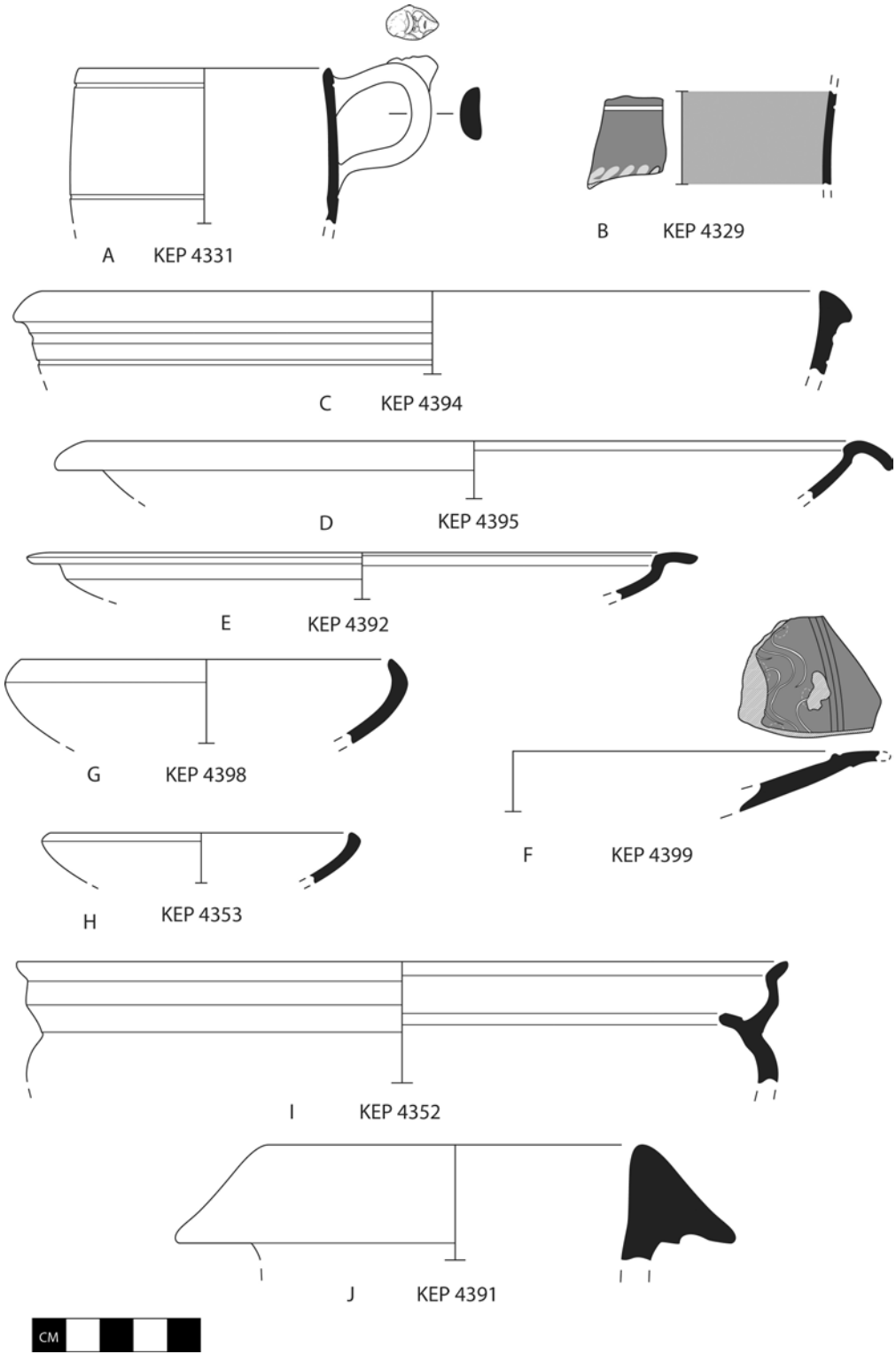

Fig. 24. Diagnostic pottery from Stratum 9. Drawings by Christina Kolb.

taxa also bear cut marks. Traces of burning on all the different animal bones are present but not particularly prominent, even though the bones were found together with ash and charcoal in Stratum 9.

Tuna bones were present in the assemblage, consisting mostly of vertebrae, but some cranial elements were also present. The tuna bones seem to belong to several individuals of relatively small size (about one metre in length or less). Many

Fig. 25. Outline of the charred area at the bottom of Stratum 9 post excavation in 2018, looking north-west. Illustration: Anton Bonnier.

of these bones bear cut marks, suggesting preparation prior to cooking. The presence of the tuna remains in Area L is particularly significant given that so far only a small amount has been identified in other areas of the site. Within the sanctuary some remains were recovered from the so-called dining deposit dating to the Hellenistic period.[32] The new deposit from Area L provides a more substantial body of preserved tuna remains. It is also remarkable that almost no other fish species represented by bones were included in this assemblage, which is an unusual situation at Kalaureia. So far, in all other excavated areas within and outside the sanctuary, fish bones of differing species were found scattered throughout in varying quantities.

By the bottom of Stratum 9 another thick deposit of charcoal and ash appeared in the space between the outer stone line and the inner part of Feature 3. This layer was excavated as a single block (L007: 59) which makes up Stratum 10. The outline of this ash-rich area was very clear and as much of the soil as possible was collected to be sieved through water flotation (*Fig. 25*). The recovered finds in Stratum 10 were few, consisting of small undiagnostic pottery fragments and a couple of bones and shells, including crushed purple shells. The context should nevertheless be chronologically associated with the sequence identified in Stratum 9 because of the stratigraphic relationship between the deposits and Feature 3.

Below the ash deposits

A thin soil layer remained underneath the ash and charcoal deposits. This new stratum, defined as Stratum 11, consisted of one block excavated in 2018 (L007: 61) which was composed of yellowish-brown soil of medium compaction. Only a small number of fragmentary body sherds was found within the stratum, of which the recovered pottery was broadly suggestive of a date in the 3rd century BC.

The foundations of Feature 3 were reached in Stratum 11, and in its south-eastern corner the layer stops at a higher, sloping level, preserving the natural inclination of the ground from the time when Feature 3 was constructed. Below Stratum 11 a further thin soil layer (Stratum 12) was subsequently excavated in the same season (composed of block L007: 65). Stratum 12 is characterized by hard brown soil, highlighting a clear stratigraphic change from the overlying layer. The pottery recovered within the stratum was largely fragmentary with few diagnostic sherds that could provide any chronological information, apart from a few body sherds with streaky black glaze that indicate a possible date in the Late Classical or Hellenistic period. A small eroded Late Geometric or Protocorinthian body sherd was also present in the assemblage.

The central part of Area L

The central part of Area L is formed by the space north of Walls 204 and 207 and the northern trench edge (*Figs. 4, 26*). The central part of Area L can be divided between the space east and west of Wall 205. Wall 205 is the northward continuation of Wall 206 which was originally constructed as part of the Classical Building. The wall is constructed of square or rectangular stone blocks tightly fitted, sometimes with the help of smaller stones, in clear horizontal courses and has a fill composed of small stones and earth. The west face of the wall is constructed of smaller stone blocks compared to the eastern side. We thus suggest that this area, west of Wall 205, formed an interior room of the Classical Building, at least during the initial building phase while the area to the east formed the exterior of the building. The top course of the foundations on

[32] Mylona 2019, 188–202.

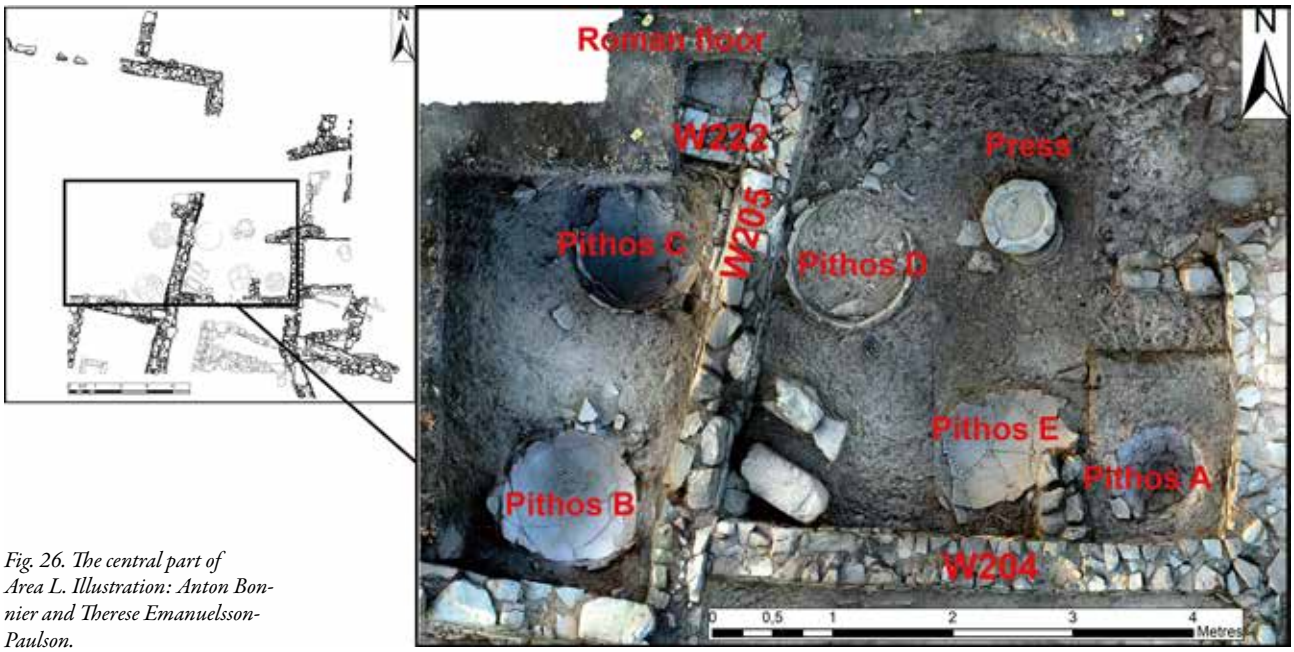

Fig. 26. The central part of Area L. Illustration: Anton Bonnier and Therese Emanuelsson-Paulson.

the east side of Wall 205 are on a lower level compared to the foundations on the west side of Wall 205. The foundations on the east side also appear to run much deeper towards the south, adjusting in relation to the natural inclination of the terrain. In the northern stretch, Wall 222 abuts Wall 205. Wall 222 is composed of well-fitted rectangular blocks with a fill of earth and small stones. The top course of the foundations belonging to the wall was revealed at the same level as the interior foundations situated on the south side of Wall 207. Wall 222 was thus probably constructed as an interior wall of the Classical Building (*Fig. 27*).

The original building phase of the Classical Building can at present not be linked with any excavated stratum in the central part of Area L, probably because of the later renovation and reuse of the building. Later refurbishments and repairs of the walls are visible. Small parts are preserved from the original phase primarily in the south and north end of the wall where the stone blocks have a distinctively cut surface. Much of the archaeology excavated in the central part of Area L can thus be linked to the later phases.

Fig. 27. Wall 222 and Wall 205 in the central part of Area L, with Pithoi C and D. Illustration: Anton Bonnier.

THE EARLY ROMAN FILL

Excavation below the plough-zone levels revealed an Early Roman fill with similar characteristics to those found elsewhere in Area L both to the east and west of Wall 205. West of Wall 205 this fill has been designated as Stratum 15 and is composed of multiple blocks excavated between 2015 and 2018 (blocks L003: 3; L007: 2; L007: 10; L007: 21; L009: 3; L009: 5; L014: 4). The stratum consisted predominantly of yellowish-brown soil of medium compaction incorporating a significant number of broken tiles and occasional small stones. East of Wall 205 several contexts excavated between 2016 and 2018 seem to belong to the same fill, but which was defined as Stratum 16 (consisting of blocks L005: 4; L005: 5; L007: 5; L007: 7; L007: 11; L007: 27; L009: 4; L009: 6; L009: 7; L014: 2; L014: 3) in order to spatially differentiate it from Stratum 15. A compositional difference between Stratum 16 and Stratum 15 could however be noted. Broken tile was not as densely deposited within the layer to the east of Wall 205.

The amount of diagnostic material in the two strata was significantly lower compared to the assemblages derived from

Fig. 28. The Roman pebble floor in the central part of Area L. Photograph: Anton Bonnier.

Fig. 29. The press stone in the central part of Area L. Photograph: Anton Bonnier.

the Early Roman fill in the other parts of Area L. Sigillata sherds, mostly small fragmentary body sherds, were present in small quantities throughout the two layers. ESA shapes seem to date to the 2nd or 1st century BC, though a few fragments may be as late as the 1st century AD. Hellenistic pottery and occasional Late Classical fragments were also present throughout these two strata.

At the bottom of block L014: 1, which forms part of the upper plough-zone levels overlying Stratum 15, a small part of a pebble cement floor was revealed. The excavated area of the floor measures approximately 45 x 55 cm, though part of it extends into the unexcavated soil baulk to the north (*Fig. 28*). The floor is interesting in terms of stratigraphy as it seems to be positioned at a level that was supported by the Early Roman fill. It therefore seems probable that both the pebble floor and Wall 220 (in the south-western part of Area L) indicate a new building level. Additions to Wall 205 and a small opening created in the northern segment close to Wall 222 also seem to be linked to this building phase. The date of these constructions is difficult to establish but the chronology of the Early Roman fill provides a *terminus post quem*.

THE PITHOI, THE PRESS STONE, AND ASSOCIATED LEVELS

Below the Early Roman fill formed by Strata 15 and 16 we encountered several storage vessels positioned *in situ* where they had been dug into the ground. A total of five pithoi was encountered during the excavations in 2016 and 2017. Of these, Pithoi B and C are situated west of Wall 205, while Pithoi A, D, and E are located to the east of the wall (*Fig. 26*). All these vessels, except for Pithos A, seem to be positioned at the same level and are of a similar size, suggesting that they belong to the same phase of the building. The vessels are *c.* 110 cm in diameter at their widest apart from Pithos A which is smaller, about 70 cm in diameter. Pithos A is also positioned at a slightly higher level than the other vessels. All these pithoi had been broken and mended in antiquity and multiple lead repairs were found on the pithoi, holding together the walls of the vessels in a fashion described by Roman agricultural writers.[33]

A small press stone (measuring *c.* 65 cm in diameter) was also found in 2017, close to the northern trench edge east of Wall 205. The press was probably positioned *in situ* on a discarded pithos rim that has been turned upside down (*Fig. 29*). During the excavation of Stratum 16 we also excavated other features that may be interpreted as possible press furniture. By the intersection of Wall 205 and Wall 204 a large stone block was first encountered in 2016 which was then interpreted as a threshold block (*Fig. 30*). The continuation of the excavation in 2017 revealed, however, that the block was much larger and contained a carved depression on the top surface of the stone. It is likely that the stone block instead formed part of the press installation, possibly as a weight block.[34] In 2017 the expansion of the trench northwards further revealed part of an octagonal limestone column lying covered by the Early Roman fill with the lower part towards the press (*Fig. 31*). The column has a preserved top and a broken lower part with a preserved height of 98 cm and a diameter between 33.5 and 35.5 cm. The column had probably been taken from the Late Archaic South Propylon, located in the sanctuary, where a similar fragment was found during the first excavations in 1894.[35] The column displays traces of rope cuttings, suggesting that it had been pulled down and then moved to a new location (presum-

[33] Cf. Peña 2007, 213–215.
[34] Cf. Ault 1999.
[35] For more information see Emanuelsson-Paulson 2020, 283–284, cat. no. 75.2.

Fig. 30. Stone block possibly forming part of the press installation in the central part of Area L, looking west–north-west. Photograph: Anton Bonnier.

Fig. 31. Octagonal column reused for the press installation, looking south–south-east. Photograph: Anton Bonnier.

ably in Area L). A re-cutting is visible in the lower part of the column (7.5 x 9.0 cm in the square base and *c.* 13.5 cm deep) as well as a corresponding cutting (*c.* 1 cm) running vertically towards the base. It was probably reused as part of the press installation in Area L, either as an olive crusher or as a weight for the press. The use of the area for olive oil production is further suggested by the study of archaeobotanical remains from the area. The remains are currently being examined by Maria Rousso but an initial report shows that several carbonized olive (*Olea europaea*) stones were found in this part of Area L.[36] It therefore seems probable that both the press installation and the pithoi were used for the production and storage of olive oil.

The date of these remains is harder to determine. Both the pithoi and the press furniture were covered by the Roman fill and would therefore have been in use before the 1st century AD (at the very latest). Excavations of the contents were carried out within four of the five pithoi. The content of Pithos A was excavated as one block in 2016 (L007: 14) but provided no datable material. The contents of both Pithos B and Pithos C were excavated in 2017 (Pithos B: blocks L007: 18; L007: 19; Pithos C: block L007: 24) and the recovered material consisted of largely scrappy undiagnostic body sherds, but a possible ESA sherd was deposited in the fill of Pithos B. There were also a few Hellenistic black glaze sherds within the soil deposited in some of the pithoi. The excavation of Pithos E in 2018 (block L007: 41) showed that the vessel was lying on its side and we cannot be certain if it was originally dug into the ground at this spot or if it had been moved prior to the deposition of the fill. No datable material was recovered from within the pithos itself. At the moment, it is generally difficult to evaluate the fills of the excavated pithoi. We cannot be entirely certain if these deposits formed part of the Early Roman fill or if the content should be dated to an earlier phase related to the use or discard of the pithoi. The recovered soil has been subject to water flotation and the residues from these deposits are being studied.

A thin soil layer, defined as Stratum 17, surrounding the press stone and the pithoi east of Wall 205 was excavated between 2017 and 2018 (blocks L007: 31; L007: 33; L007: 50; L007: 66; L014: 5). The stratum was composed of yellowish-brown soil of a much harder compaction compared to the Early Roman fill overlying it. The finds recovered within the stratum were composed of small and very fragmentary undiagnostic pieces though the latest material seem to be composed of Hellenistic sherds and no Early Roman material was identified. Based on the recovered sherds it is however not possible to pinpoint a date beyond the broader Hellenistic period.

The construction of Wall 204 nevertheless seems to be connected to the creation of the rooms containing the pithoi and the press installation. Wall 204 seem to have been constructed in the Late Hellenistic period (in the first half of the 2nd century BC at the earliest) as suggested by the finds contained within the stratum on which the wall stands (Stratum 7). Based on this stratigraphic sequence the use of the production and storage facilities in the central part of Area L can be dated from the 2nd century BC until the area was covered by the Early Roman fill.

[36] pers. comm. Maria Rousso.

Stretches visible on Wall 205 further indicate redevelopment of the Classical Building in this period. An opening (approximately 1.2 m wide) seems for example to have been created in Wall 205, and a corresponding 1.8 m-wide opening in Wall 204. Given the date of Wall 204 this probably occurred in the 2nd century BC at the earliest. During the final building phase, the upper part of Wall 205 seems to have been refurbished and the opening was closed. The opening in Wall 204 was probably also closed at this time. Wall or floor plaster is preserved along the parts of Wall 205 on the western side where the opening in the wall had been created in the 2nd century BC. None of the plaster is, however, preserved in front of the original stone blocks or foundations of Wall 205 and should instead be linked to the later use of the building complex in the Hellenistic period. Some of the stones used during this phase of Wall 205 seem to be cut out of a soft limestone with shell inclusions. This is a non-local stone type which has not been found in any previously excavated Classical or Hellenistic buildings at Kalaureia. It was, however, used for most of the Archaic structures excavated at the site. It is thus possible that these limestone blocks were taken from an Archaic building in the sanctuary when the opening in the wall was filled in, presumably in connection with the deposition of the Early Roman fill.

The northern trench

The northern trench constitutes an area that has not yet been connected with the larger trench to the south (*Figs. 4, 32*). The excavation in this this part of Area L, however, provided further evidence of the development of the structural environment and in particular the northern segment of the Classical Building formed by Wall 208 and Wall 214 (see *Fig. 3*). Wall 214 is probably a continuation of Wall 205, situated in the central part of Area L, while Wall 208 runs east to west and bonds with Wall 214 in a perpendicular corner. The excavations in the northern trench exposed the full surviving height down to the foundations of these walls except for the outer corner by the intersection of Wall 208 and Wall 214. Wall remains visible on the surface of the unexcavated area to the west of the trench suggest that Wall 214 continues for at least 4.4 m in length. The position of these remains thus suggests that the building had a minimum width of 8.4 m. The excavations in the northern trench also provided further stratigraphic information on the initial construction of the Classical Building as further layers belonging to the early phases were excavated.

THE EARLY ROMAN FILL

Below the topsoil layer in the northern trench several blocks were excavated that bear the characteristics of the Early Roman fill. The part of the fill excavated to the south of Wall 208 has been defined as Stratum 18 (L004: 5; L004: 6; L004: 8; L004: 9; L010: 4), while the fill to the north of Wall 208 was defined as Stratum 19 (L004: 4; L010: 3; L010: 5). In terms of soil composition and the chronology of the recovered finds the two strata were identical. The strata were characterized by multiple broken tiles as well as a large number of small stones deposited in yellowish-brown soil of medium compaction. The soil was usually less compacted in the parts where the small stones were prevalent.

The ceramic finds belonging to these two strata were characterized by fragmentary sherds of mixed chronology. The assemblage included several Hellenistic fragments, as well as a smaller amount of Late Classical black glaze sherds. The latest period represented in the strata were, however, composed of sigillata wares including a base and lower body fragment of an ESA large plate probably dating to the 1st century BC (*Fig. 33*).[37] A block contained within Stratum 18 (block L004: 9) was however devoid of any Early Roman material and instead included only pottery of Late Classical to Early Hellenistic dates. The soil composition and characteristics of L004: 9 was however identical to the other blocks excavated as part of the stratum. The block was situated next to and has a similar thickness as L004: 8 which also formed part of the stratum and where sigillata sherds were common. L004: 9 is therefore considered as part of Stratum 18 despite the lack of later material.

The mixed dates of the finds within these blocks thus indicate that there may have been some post-depositional disturbances in this part of Area L that could have obscured the stratigraphic relationships. Such disturbance can potentially be linked to refurbishments of the Classical Building in a later phase as is visible in the architectural remains. On the south side of Wall 208 the foundations of the wall are situated at a depth of around 186.35 masl, but the foundations were repaired below the original foundation level in a later period. These repairs seem to run deeper on the south side of the wall. In the later phase a small opening (about 30 cm wide) was created in the centre of these foundations (*Fig. 34*), possibly used as a drain. These repairs and refurbishments may thus have resulted in heavily disturbed deposits and mixed fills that would have supported the level of the latest building phase.

THE HELLENISTIC CONTEXT NORTH OF WALL 208

A single Hellenistic stratum was excavated to the north of Wall 208, and was defined as Stratum 20 (L004: 7). The layer is composed of soil immediately to the east of Wall 215. There was, however, no obvious stratigraphic change in the soil quali-

[37] Hayes 2008, 21–23, fig. 1. (see esp. nos. 14–16).

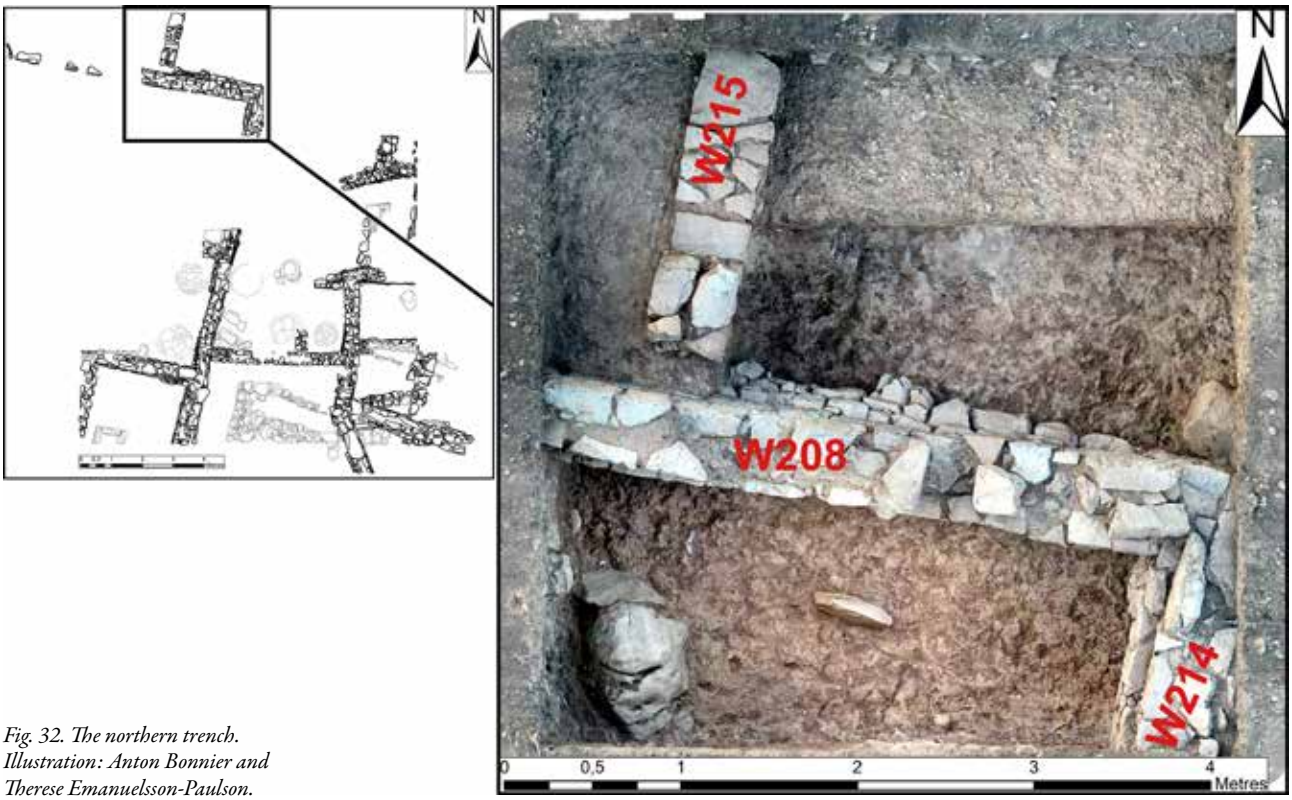

Fig. 32. The northern trench. Illustration: Anton Bonnier and Therese Emanuelsson-Paulson.

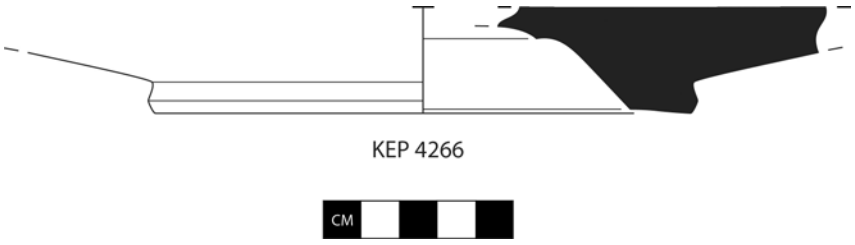

Fig. 33. Eastern Sigillata A large plate recovered from Stratum 17. Drawing by Christina Kolb.

ties compared to the Early Roman fill overlying it. The position of the layer in connection with Wall 215 nevertheless suggested that it formed a new stratum as the wall seems to have been constructed on the level formed by Stratum 20. The top surface of the layer seems to be sloping towards the east and it is possible that Wall 215 functioned as a retaining wall. The first traces of Wall 215 were revealed in Stratum 19. It consists of small- to medium-sized square stones with an earth filling in-between and with plaster and tiles built into the wall. The northern part of Wall 215 has a flat surface, probably constructed to accommodate an opening or as a foundation for a threshold (*Fig. 35*).

The recovered finds from Stratum 20 consisted primarily of Hellenistic pottery including black glaze table wares and sherds of mould-made bowls. There was also a small amount of Late Classical black glaze sherds in the assemblage. Wall 215 therefore seems to have been constructed in the 2nd century BC at the earliest. The large quantity of Hellenistic household material contained in the Early Roman fill further suggests that the northern segment of the Classical Building was used throughout this period. Apart from Stratum 20, however, there were no other strata dating to this period in the northern trench. The seemingly disturbed nature of the stratigraphy in the northern trench, nevertheless, suggests that this may be due to later disturbances.

THE CLASSICAL CONTEXTS

Below the fill layers (including Stratum 20), a number of Classical strata were excavated in 2018. On the northern side of Wall 208 Stratum 21 is formed by a single block (L004: 10) characterized by distinct reddish-brown soil of medium compaction. The soil qualities were thus clearly different compared to the overlying layers. The diagnostic finds were primarily composed of fine wares including several Archaic sherds and at least

Fig. 34. The northern face of Wall 208, looking south, with small opening highlighted within the dashed line. Illustration: Anton Bonnier.

Fig. 35. Wall 215, looking west. Photograph: Anton Bonnier.

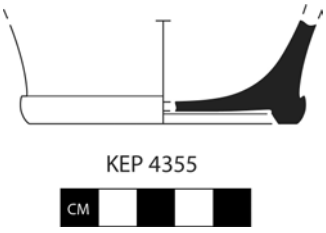

Fig. 36. Attic-type skyphos from Stratum 21. Drawing by Christina Kolb.

one Late Geometric or Protocorinthian sherd. A large amount of Classical black glaze sherds was also included in the assemblage and seems to push the stratum into the same phase as the stone packing fill excavated in the south-western part of Area L (i.e. Stratum 4): the base and lower body fragment of an Attic-type *skyphos* can for example be dated to the 4th century BC (*Fig. 36*).[38] South of Wall 208 a layer with the same soil characteristics as Stratum 21 was excavated. This layer was defined as Stratum 22 (composed of block L004: 11). The recovered pottery assemblage contained some diagnostic material, including multiple black glaze sherds dating to the Classical period; no later material could be recognized. Below Stratum 21, a further layer composed of reddish-brown soil was excavated in 2018 (Stratum 23 composed of block L004: 12). Finds were less numerous and very few diagnostic sherds were recovered from this stratum; black glaze body sherds and some brown glaze sherds were part of the assemblage. Generally, the material does not seem to postdate the Classical period.

The excavation of the Classical layers fully exposed the deeper stretches of Walls 208 and 214. The walls are composed of rectangular well-fitted blocks (*Fig. 34*), while the foundations consist of large rectangular blocks, flatter in the top courses and more irregularly shaped in the lowest course. The foundations of Wall 208 are clearly bonded with the foundations of Wall 214 in the eastern corner and the foundations of Wall 214 are constructed using the same technique (*Fig. 37*). The excavated strata and the building techniques used for these walls thus largely correspond to the earliest phases recorded elsewhere in Area L.

Preliminary conclusions

The new excavations in Area L have not yet been able to provide a full outline of the structural environment. Both the

[38] Cf. Sparkes *et al.* 1970, no. 349, fig. 4.

Fig. 37. Wall foundation of Wall 208 and Wall 214, looking north. Photograph: Anton Bonnier.

strata and the architectural remains that have been studied so far nevertheless point to various phases and allow for some discussion of function and use of the area. Major architectural developments occurred during the 4th century BC when the Classical Building was built. The nature of this building is currently difficult to fully define though dining seems to have taken place in a room to the south (in the south-western part of Area L). The finds recovered from possible floor layers point to such activities occurring throughout the 3rd century and into the 2nd century BC. In the late 4th or early 3rd century BC a hearth was also constructed in this room, which sits on the Classical construction fill. The feature thus seems to support the function of this space as a possible dining area. Indications of cooking activities also come from the area immediately to the east of the building in the southern part of Area L. Here a large feature (Feature 3) was excavated together with deposits of charcoal and ash, as well as pottery dating to the 3rd century BC. The large assemblage of animal bones, composed primarily of cattle and tuna bones that seem to have been cut for serving portions, further indicate the occurrence of possible food preparation and dining in this period.

Feature 3 seems to have been covered by a new construction fill by the end of the 3rd century BC and a new wall was constructed in the 2nd century BC, which expanded the building to the east. In this phase multiple storage vessels were dug into the ground in the central area of Area L. The location of the press installation in the central part of Area L, consisting of a small press stone and other pieces of identifiable press furniture, indicates that the area was used for production and storage in this phase. The press installation was probably used for olive oil production given the preliminary results of the archaeobotanical analysis. Such production and storage activities seem to have continued into at least the 1st century BC or the 1st century AD, after which much of Area L was covered by a new construction fill (defined as the Early Roman fill). The deposition of the construction fill seems to coincide with repairs and additions on the upper courses of several walls belonging to the Classical Building. During this phase, the hearth in the south-western part of Area L was covered by the fill and the floor was brought to a higher level. Both the pebble floor, revealed in the central part of Area L, and Wall 220, situated in the south-western part of Area L, seem to belong to this phase which thus seem to post-date the 1st century BC or 1st century AD. It is not currently possible to make any functional or proper chronological interpretation of the building complex in the latest phase as the uppermost strata had been disturbed and damaged by later ploughing.

The above summary offers a preliminary view on developments in Area L, based on the study of the archaeological structures, features and artefacts excavated between 2015 and 2018. Further excavation is, however, required in order to establish: 1) the full extent of the structural environment in all phases, 2) information on the earliest phases present in Area L, predating the 4th century BC, 3) the extent and nature of Feature 3 revealed in the southern part of Area L, and 4) further stratigraphic and chronological information linked to the establishment of the press installation and storage vessels excavated in the central part of Area L.

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